

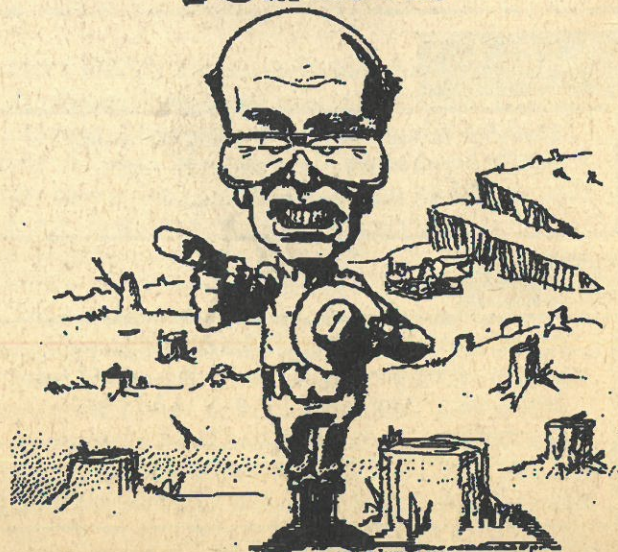
HARDCOPY ON THE REAGAN YEARS

The REAGAN Years According to the Naturalist-At-Large

Between 1980-1983, Don Rittner and the late Raoul Vezina created the Naturalist-At-Large editorial cartoons that appeared weekly in the Knickerbocker News. Here are a few reprinted to acknowledge the passing of the Reagan years.



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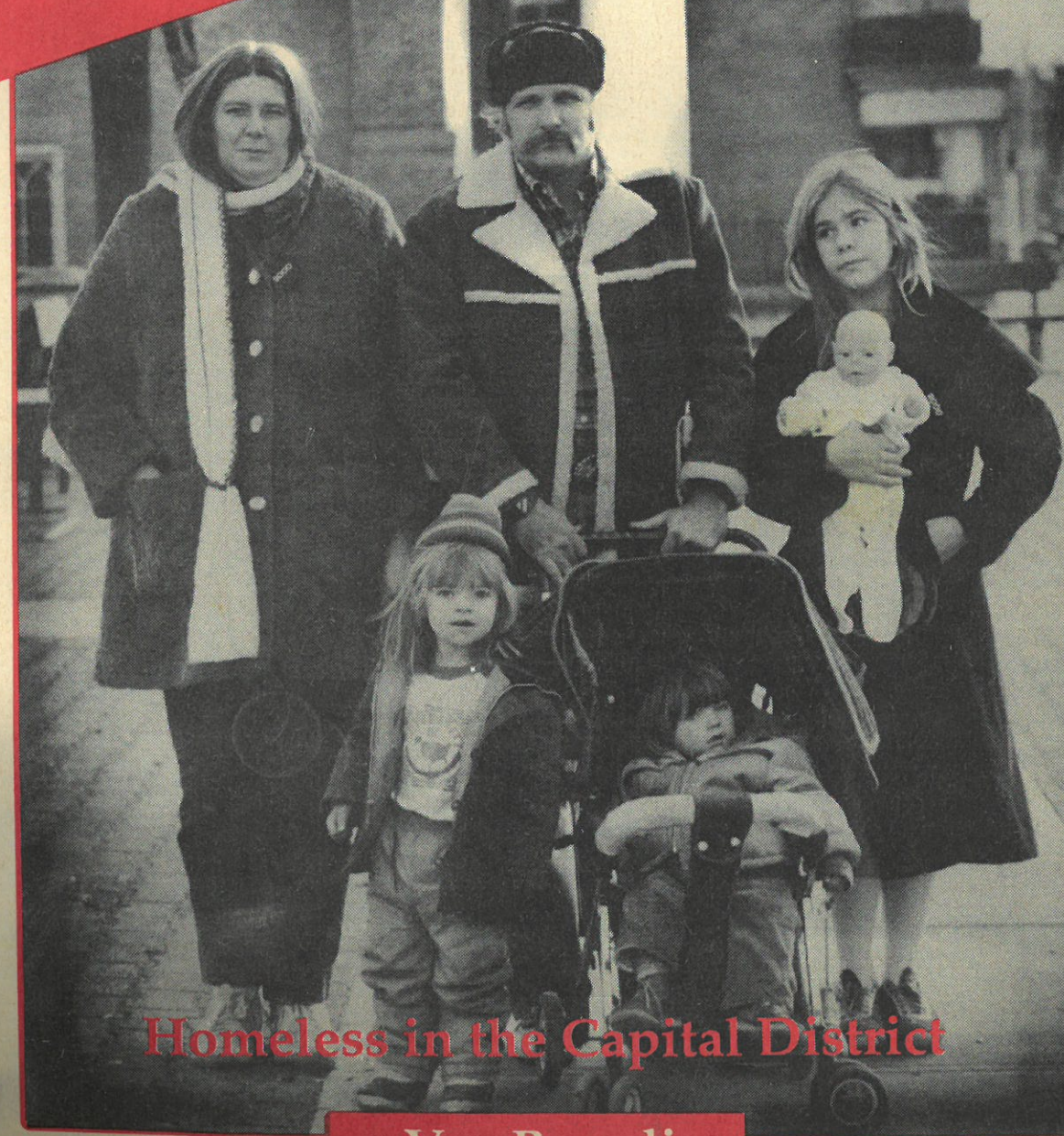
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February, 1989

HARDCOPY

For the Common Good

FREE



Homeless in the Capital District

Vox Populi

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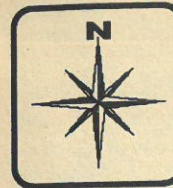
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HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD provides a
public forum on all issues and therefore viewpoints are
those of the authors, not necessarily those of
HARDCOPY NEWS SERVICE.
The editors would like to thank Peter Iselin and the staff of
METROLAND for keeping Alternative publishing alive in
the Capital District.

Cover Photograph: Sandra Wickham (age 36), Richard
Hatchell (42), Richard Jr. (2), Larry (1), and Tehisha Grugan
(10), a Troy family homeless since December 1988. See
related story on Homelessness by Fred Griesbach.
Photo by Don Rittner.

The editors would like to note the passing of
L.A. Swyer,
Albany businessman, friend of the
environment, and patron of the arts

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To Discover Our Common Bonds

*Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government
without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not
hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.*
—Thomas Jefferson

WE MAY BE, AS Governor Mario Cuomo says, a family.
But we are a family in fear. In fear, we don't recognize one
another. Unable to recognize one another, we are reduced
to individual survival. Alone, we grasp for soothing
myths. And we got them, from Jerry Falwell, Pat
Robertson, and The Great Communicator, a man who was
once upstaged by a chimpanzee. All of a sudden, planet of
the apes is looking good. Is that what we want?

We can change that. The change must start in our
dreams. That, as we see it, is the lesson of the Sixties: It is
possible to imagine a different way of life. It is possible to
act on those aspirations. And, through action, things
change. In the Sixties, civil rights legislation was passed,
an unpopular war was stopped, women's issues were put on
the national agenda, and popular music underwent a
renaissance.

But, the reaction against the Sixties has been punishing.
We now live in a moral vacuum. The purpose of
HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is to step into
that vacuum and provide a forum for voices seeking a way
out. Are we qualified to do so? Of course not. No one is.
Still, it must be done and we are tired of waiting for
someone else to do it.

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is from the
Sixties. In part. Much of the drive behind the Sixties came
from a feeling that our culture had fundamental failings.
On that score LITTLE HAS CHANGED. We were naive,
we were arrogant. Now that we've lived through Nixon,
Ford, Carter, and Reagan we are not so naive. We are, no
doubt, still arrogant — how else can we question things?

Still, we recognize the limitations of the protest and
countercultural activities of the Sixties. We were, in our
way, victims of the American desire for a quick fix. There
is no quick fix for complex problems. And we created our
own stereotypes, the most absurd of which was enshrined in
the dictum "Don't trust anyone over thirty." Now, we are
over thirty, if not forty, and we face young people who
can't tell the difference between video footage of a mass
march on Washington and a crowd scene in a Hollywood
epic. We are now older than Martin Luther King, Jr. was
when he was cut down by an assassin's bullet at the age of
thirty-nine.

We also believed in a difference between US and THE
ESTABLISHMENT. There was not, and is not, any one
Establishment which controls this country. Many of us
were the sons and daughters of one establishment or
another; we should have known better. The United States
is a plurality of establishments: The Business Council, the
NAACP, the New York Stock Exchange, the Pentagon, the

AFL-CIO, the Seven Sisters, Bohemian Grove — these are
just a few of the many established groups which,
together, attempt to run this country. As Jesse Jackson has
said, we are all patches in the quilt.

But the quilt is misshapen and falling apart. We need
a new design, maybe even new principles of design. We
invite you to help shape a this design. What issues and
ideas are important to you? What do you think, and feel?
Whose voice do you want to hear? And who do you want
to hear your voice?

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is an
experiment. We have no fixed agenda, only a desire to
break free from the miasma which has been choking our
public discourse for the last two decades. Like any other
magazine, we can only be as good as our readership. Read
us and make us better. Talk about the issues, your issues,
and make our public life better. Act on the issues and
create the future.

The Power of the Press

---From the Albany Zodiac, July, 1835

*This much lauded power is not magical, though confessedly mighty. It
depends upon laws as uniform and indispensable, and intelligible as any in
physics. The phrase, like many others, is much used; but rarely allied to
very definite conceptions. A general examination of the real influence of
printing, may prepare the way for an impressive view of privilege and
obligation connected with it. The power of the press is the power of
mind over mind; and this may be multiplied indefinitely. If one mind can
powerfully affect another by relating a fact, by illustrating a principle,
by awakening dormant associations; if Demosthenes could move all
Athens with one controlling spirit of courage; if Peter the hermit, could
spread through Europe the musings and burnings of his solitary bosom,
and create one all-absorbing impulse of fanaticism, then the press is
powerful. True, the living speaker teaching the mind through both the
eye and the ear, can get the more entire mastery of his hearers, than if he
had been confined to his pen. But the press is the whispering gallery of
the world, and of time. It brings its audience of a million to hear, and
when they are dead, it furnishes another. Here is the electric chain of
mind the most extensive and perpetual, along which, thought and
sentiment and purpose can spread themselves from the fountain to
numberless recipients. To go a little more into detail. The press
enables one man to affect in one year, a million of minds, or two, or ten
millions, just as powerfully as he can affect one, by a written
communication. Evans wrote on the removal of the Indians across the
Mississippi, a series of articles signed William Penn. Whatever may
have been their merits or demerits, they were supposed to have been read
within one month, by two million persons in the United States. What an
audience for one man to address in one month! Surely no man mispends
his time, who is writing what is worth reading. The press enables a*

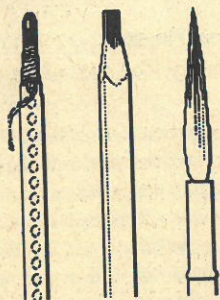
writer to address his descendants to the end of time. How delightful the thought, that a thousand years hence you will be moulding to virtue some youthful heart, descended from you and your children. Look too on the other side. It enables the readers of four continents to learn the facts of geography and government, of science and literature in each, as perfectly as their own; the men of a thousand generations can live back amid all former periods, converse with sages, listen to orators and poets, and accumulate into one, the wisdom of forty centuries. The press is the grand depository of facts, which form the basis of all science; it is the everlasting herald of departed worth; embalming every form of poetic beauty, and collecting every gem of pure and noble sentiment; presenting a perpetual series of portraits which defy the corrosion of time, and make permanent the fleeting peculiarities of every age. It stamps eternity on science, and places each generation in its infancy on the vantage ground, attained by the last toils of their predecessors. It is now the moral ligament which binds in cordial fraternity fourteen millions of freemen, scattered under fifteen degrees of latitude and thirty of longitude; differing on every point of religious belief; with constantly clashing and rival interests; fully contrasted in the character of their domestic relations, North and South, and in their traits of individual character, East and West. Yet the press softens their prejudices, removes misapprehensions, and spreads under the eye of fourteen millions of legitimate sovereigns, the exact state of their empire. It is the ally of

Liberty, the defender and propagator of Truth, the appointed dispenser of light, the nourishment of mind, the main spring of free governments, and the dread of political and religious despotism. None but despots have tried to chain it; for none better than they have understood its power, and none but they have dreaded its influence. To be still more minute. A man is reading a newspaper containing an account of a new application of power to machinery. It strikes some deep and vibratory chord in his breast. He starts as from a dream; a thousand 'mechanical thoughts' which have wandered oft in the idle roamings through his mind, now rush impetuous together. He has discovered a new principle of arrangement. They fall in one after another, rank and file. He flies to his tools, constructs a new machine for navigating rivers; and presently the rivers, lakes and seas are ploughed by steam; and the commercial condition of the world is changed as by magic. That man felt the power of the press. The world felt it through him.

[The editors of *HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD* apologize for the sexist style of writing one hundred and fifty four years ago, but we felt this preamble is powerful in its own right and should not go unnoticed.]

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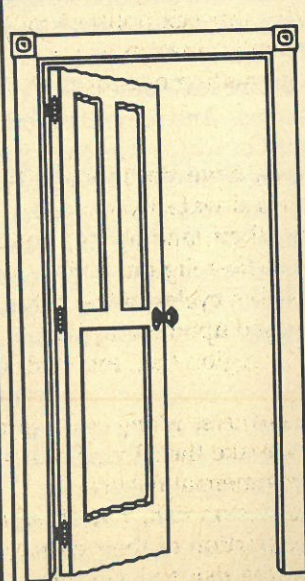
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Mohawk Nation Threatened by Pollution

by Ward Stone & Mary Frances Hoover

All are but parts of one stupendous Whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the soul.
—POPE, Essay on Man 1

ONCE THE MOHAWK INDIANS held most of what is today eastern New York State, but now they retain only a vestige or their former lands. The largest Mohawk territory left in New York is Akwesasne ("land where the partridge drums"), home to approximately 8,000 Mohawks living just east of the city of Massena. Akwesasne is approximately 28,000 acres of land consisting of islands in the St. Lawrence River and lands on the river's south shore. The Grasse River joins the St. Lawrence River within a mile of Mohawk land, and the Raquette and St. Regis Rivers pass through Akwesasne to enter the St. Lawrence.

The land of Akwesasne is a mixture of forested and agricultural areas with low-density residential districts. The St. Lawrence River is the heart of Akwesasne and is a source of drinking water, food, medicinal plants and recreation. Over the last 100 years, especially in the last 40 years following the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Akwesasne has become surrounded by such industrial corporations as General Motors Central Foundry Division, ALCOA, Reynolds Metals Company, Domtar Paper, Canadian Industries Limited (CIL), the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and the St. Lawrence Power Authority. The St. Lawrence River drains the Great Lakes, and is consequently subject to many of the pollutants afflicting those bodies of water.

Although Akwesasne is within the drawn borders of the United States (State of New York) and Canada (Provinces of Ontario and Quebec), the Mohawks maintain a measure of political sovereignty as indigenous people. They strive to maintain their culture and practice traditional ways of life despite complex political pressures and the threats posed by the contamination of their environment with toxicants originating outside their borders.

THE PEOPLE of Akwesasne have traditionally lived off the resources of their lands and waterways. The Mohawks have always viewed their land as the center of their political, economic, and socio-religious philosophies. Their ceremonial events follow the cycles of the natural world. Family structures are based upon clans given the names of animals found in their region (i.e., eel, turtles, snipe, bear, wolf).

Today some Mohawks are farmers. Many more garden, hunt, fish and trap. A number make their living seasonally as fishing guides. A few are commercial fisherman. Mohawks have relied for centuries on fish, waterfowl and wild animals to supply a large portion of their dietary protein. The contamination of the fish and wildlife resource by environmental pollutants not only threatens the

health of the Mohawk people and their economy, but also strikes at their spiritual integrity.

Although there are no recent reliable surveys on the consumption of fish and wildlife by Mohawks, consumption is believed to have declined drastically in recent years. This is, in part, the result of advice from Mohawk health and environmental officials concerned about the contamination of their resources with toxics such as polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, dibenzofurans, and mercury.

According to Henry Lickers, Director of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environmental Division, most Mohawks have limited incomes and cannot replace this loss of dietary protein. Most have substituted inexpensive starch and sugars which are believed to have exacerbated cases of mature onset of diabetes, a disease which is widespread at Akwesasne. Increased reliance on food bought at grocery stores has stripped the Mohawk people of control over production of their own resources. Men who formerly provided fish and wildlife for the table have now lost this source of pride since they fear that the toxics in this food may harm their families.

Unfortunately for the Mohawks who make their living seasonally as fishing guides, the past and present water pollution problems appear to have greatly diminished the number of tourists coming to Akwesasne for American Indian guides. In addition, the number of commercial fishermen at Akwesasne has declined because contaminants in the fish have hurt sales. All aspects of Mohawk sovereignty as a nation — economic, political, religious, educational and health care — have been affected by the contamination of their environment.

MUCH ATTENTION has been focused on the General Motors Central Foundry which is on the western border of Akwesasne. GM has operated an aluminum casting factory at the site from 1959 until the present, but operations have greatly declined in the last several years. There are reports that the plant may close because of foreign competition.

General Motors has directly discharged PCBs and other toxics to the St. Lawrence River. Hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of St. Lawrence River sediments adjacent to and downriver from the GM facility are heavily contaminated with PCBs. One river cove has been named "Contaminant Cove" because of the heavy PCB contamination of its waters and sediments.

The PCB contamination is thought to have occurred

largely from the loss of PCB-based hydraulic fluids from die-casting machines. In addition, GM has industrial landfills in which various solvents and degreasers, methyl di-isocyanate, phenols, formaldehyde, triethylamine and PCB contaminated sludges and hydraulic fluids have been disposed. It is estimated that the industrial landfills and disposal areas contain more than 353,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and waste with a level of 25 parts-per-million (ppm) of PCBs (dry weight) or more. The Wildlife Pathology Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in a joint study with the Mohawks, has documented that PCBs have moved from GM into adjacent Mohawk lands and waters.

PREDICTABLY, PCB'S are also moving through the food chain on lands adjacent to GM and the St. Lawrence River. Many fish specimens have tested above the federal guideline of 2 ppm of PCBs in the edible portion. Waterfowl commonly contained more than 3 ppm permissible in the dissectible fat of poultry. These are guideline levels established for foods and set at levels needed to protect human health. However, the fats of some of these specimens exceed the New York State definition of hazardous waste (50 ppm of PCBs on a dry weight basis).

PCB levels as high as 36 ppm (wet weight) were found in a fillet of carp and 9.4 ppm in that of a channel catfish. PCBs have been found in leopard frogs at up to 2,319 ppm, in bullfrogs to 807 ppm, green frogs to 228 ppm, and American toads to 660 ppm (all on a lipid basis). A female snapping turtle taken next to GM had 835 ppm (wet weight) of PCBs in its fat, while a male had 3,067 ppm. A garter snake taken near the Loran Thompson residence (the closest house to the dump) had 105 ppm of PCBs in its fat. Waterfowl with up to 318 ppm of PCBs in their carcass lipid were collected in a river marsh immediately below GM. Terrestrial mammals such as shrews (lipid levels of PCBs from 13 to 11,522 ppm) and mice (lipid levels of PCBs up to 11.9 ppm) reflect contamination of the terrestrial food chain in Akwesasne adjacent to GM. Since these terrestrial organisms may also consume some aquatic insects and other aquatic organisms (e.g. snails, frogs) that are available, some of their body burdens may have come from aquatic contamination.

THE REYNOLDS Metals Company is located about 1.5 miles upriver from the GM Central Foundry, and is directly across the south channel of the St. Lawrence River from Cornwall Island, a popular fishing and waterfowl hunting area for the Mohawks. Recent DEC and Mohawk studies have shown that Reynolds is presently polluting the St. Lawrence River (on its northern border) and the Raquette River (on its southern border) with PCBs, dibenzofurans, dioxins, fluorides, PNAs (polynuclear aromatics),

aluminum, and other toxics.

The PCB and associated dibenzofuran pollution has gone on for decades, but was not identified until late 1987 by Ward Stone and Mohawk biologist Ken Jock. To date, the major source of PCB contamination found at Reynolds Metals was a loss of PCBs from a heat transfer system that heated pitch to be taken into the plant. However, Reynolds Metals also had PCB-containing hydraulic fluids and PCBs in transformers that also contaminated the environment.

All four major Reynolds Metals industrial discharges were putting PCBs into the St. Lawrence River. Recently, the company has installed a carbon filtration system that has greatly decreased the PCB loss from one discharge and reduced it from a second. However, at least four of their drainages to the St. Lawrence River, and three to the Raquette River, still have unabated PCB discharges.

The Reynolds Metals pollution is expected to rival that of GM. It is clear that Reynolds has massive PCB contamination on its plant grounds and is responsible for hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of river sediment contamination with PCBs and other toxicants.

This late discovery of the Reynolds Metal Company's pollution of the St. Lawrence and Raquette Rivers with PCBs illustrates the inadequacy of the state's industrial discharge monitoring program. It is too limited to discover many important pollution problems in a timely fashion. There is too much reliance on the polluter (or the polluter's contractor) to do the monitoring. On occasion, this can be a "fox in charge of the hen house" situation. More actual field investigations and chemical analyses by government personnel are needed if the environment is to be properly protected. Because of the delay in identification of the Reynolds Metals PCB contamination, Mohawk waters and foods have unnecessarily been heavily polluted with PCBs. These contaminants should have been contained on the Reynolds Metals Company property long ago. It would have been far less expensive to have controlled the PCBs and toxics on site than to clean them from the river.

ADDITIONAL INPUTS of PCBs and other toxics to Akwesasne are coming from the Grasse River (severe PCB pollution from ALCOA and possibly other sources) into the St. Lawrence River just upriver of the Reynolds Metals Plant. A recent Mohawk and DEC study of the Grasse River has shown the sediments to contain high levels of PCBs, and that significant inputs of PCBs and other persistent toxics to the Akwesasne area come by this route.

A more thorough investigation to the causes and extent of ALCOA's pollution is needed as soon as

possible. ALCOA has a permit from DEC to discharge PCBs up to 2 parts per billion in water to the Grasse River, and that should be halted.

IN ADDITION to the American industrial polluters, there may be other sources of the PCBs in the waters of Akwesasne. The available data on toxics from the Canadian side should be reviewed, and, where needed, further data and/or remedial action should be requested of Canadian authorities. New York State should also do limited monitoring on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence to help assure that the sources of the pollutants are properly identified. (The Canadians monitor the U.S. side of the river.) Meaningful and long-lasting cleanup of toxicants from the Massena, New York/Cornwall, Ontario/Akwesasne region of the St. Lawrence River will require a strengthened cooperative effort by the governments of the United States, Canada, and the Mohawks.

To a small degree, ALCOA's pollution of the Grasse River into the St. Lawrence probably overlaps with the contamination from Reynolds Metals Company and GM. Reynolds contributes toxics into the portion of the river primarily polluted by GM. The Mohawk Nation, Canada and the fish and wildlife are the unhappy recipients of this toxic mess.

THE STORY of pollution at Akwesasne is a sad one that is continuing to threaten the traditional way of life of the Mohawks. A continued identification of upstream polluters along with quick abatement of discharges is needed. The removal of persistent toxics from the river sediments will be necessary to improve water quality and to make the fish and wildlife less dangerous for consumption by humans.

It is encouraging that, in January 1989, the DEC has referred the matter of the pollution to the St. Lawrence, Grasse, and Raquette River systems to the Attorney General's Office for enforcement. The Mohawks have hired their own attorney and expect to see a much cleaner river in less than ten years. Still, such clean-up efforts typically proceed at a snail's pace. The complexities of political jurisdictions, legal maneuvering, recalcitrant polluters, the slowness of bureaucracies, inadequate scientific studies and engineering solutions, and limited funding for remediation could doom the Mohawk's traditional way of life at Akwesasne.

If the Mohawks loose their way of life to pollution, can we be far behind?

Ward Stone is the head of the Wildlife Pathology Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Mary Frances Hoover is a Mohawk Indian and a veterinary student at the New York State Veterinary College at Ithaca.

The Case of the Frog

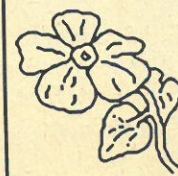
Although no large scale mortality of fish or wildlife has yet been linked to the contaminant problems, effects on individuals and local populations of certain species may exist. For Instance, the leopard frog with 2,319 ppm of PCBs in its lipid is an interesting case. The frog was acquired about 25 yards out in the St. Lawrence River off a major GM discharge pipe. It was in the bottom sediments and was dark against a light sediment background — an unusual coloring which indicates that the frog might have had difficulty regulating its chromatophores (skin cells used to control skin color).

The frog remained immobile in the sediment and was captured. When it was released on land it could jump but would land on its back and could not right itself. The frog was killed and a necropsy was performed. There was no indication of traumatic injury, nor of parasitic or infectious disease. The carcass contained 71.9 ppm of PCBs (wet weight basis), and the liver 60.8 ppm. It is possible that this frog was exhibiting PCB intoxication.

Controlled experiments are needed on leopard frogs to determine lethal tissue levels in these amphibians. Several other frogs, including green frogs with similar physiological impairment, were noted in the St. Lawrence River off GM and in the waters of Akwesasne next to GM. Thus, this was not an isolated observation.

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To the editors of
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Protecting Drinking Water Needs Citizen Input

by Jeff Skelding

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

—Thomas Fuller, *Gnomologia*, 5451

THREE MILLION UPSTATE RESIDENTS receive drinking water from underground hydrologic systems called aquifers. Aquifers are underground geologic formations capable of holding and transmitting large amounts of water. A popular misconception holds that aquifers are underground oceans. In fact, the water contained within an aquifer actually adheres to or exists between soil particles. Less productive aquifers are located in those bedrock situations containing cracks and fissures which hold water.

The aquifer type with the highest yield consists of sand and gravel sediments. This soil type is very permeable and porous, conditions favorable for the extraction of large volumes of groundwater. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has defined two types of aquifers according to their yield and contribution to public water supply systems. *Primary aquifers* are highly productive aquifers which are heavily utilized for municipal water supplies. *Principal aquifers* are aquifers which have a potential for high yield but are not heavily used for water supply.

TWO OF New York's 18 primary aquifers, the Schenectady aquifer and the Clifton Park/Halfmoon aquifer, are located in the Capital Region. The Schenectady aquifer provides water for 150,000 people while the Clifton Park/Halfmoon aquifer supplies drinking water for approximately 20,000 people. The protection of these two aquifer systems through wise water resource management is critical to maintaining the quality of drinking water for Capital District residents.

Unfortunately, the regulatory scheme which addresses land activities that may potentially contaminate primary aquifers is in its infancy. Currently the only regulation in place specifically to protect primary aquifers is a ban on new landfills. Several other threats to primary aquifers are not yet addressed, including: existing landfills and hazardous waste sites, chemical storage, underground petroleum storage tanks, road salt storage, sewage disposal, and industrial and commercial wastewater discharge.

The DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and their county and regional agents play the predominant role in groundwater protection. The DEC develops and implements programs which regulate hazardous and solid wastes, wastewater dischargers, and chemical and petroleum bulk storage. DEC is currently in the process of developing a wellhead protection program which will regulate the use of land next to a public water supply well. The DOH develops and enforces groundwater

standards which establish maximum permissible levels of contaminants in aquifers. Public water suppliers, in conjunction with DOH, can establish Watershed Rules and Regulations which regulate land use in areas that contribute to groundwater recharge for public water supplies. These regulations are legally enforceable. But, unfortunately, this important option is not used often enough because of limited resources and expertise.

A LACK of resources and funding at state agencies, aggravated by the current budget crisis and a plethora of environmental problems has, to a large extent, impeded protection efforts. Thus it is extremely important for citizens to become involved at a local level. *Many of the most effective environmental protection controls can come out of local governments as a result of citizen lobbying.* In terms of groundwater protection, there are several options for local governments:

- The State Environmental Quality Review process (SEQR), gives local government agencies the opportunity to thoroughly review state and local agency funded or approved projects which may affect the environment. In addition, citizens are able to publicly comment on the proposed project.

- Under SEQR, local governments can designate ecologically sensitive parcels of land as "Critical Environmental Areas" (CEA's). This designation guarantees that any proposed action in that area will receive thorough environmental review. Primary aquifers are excellent candidates for CEA designation because they are vulnerable to contamination and supply large amounts of drinking water to residents of the area.

- Local governments and citizens can urge public water suppliers (often owned and operated by the municipality) to develop Watershed Rules and Regulations with effective enforcement mechanisms. As mentioned before, these Rules are legally enforceable and regulate land use activities in the watershed area of a public water supply system.

- Local governments can petition to designate primary aquifers as "sole source aquifers." This has been accomplished for the Schenectady aquifer. Although land use regulations for sole source aquifers are very similar to SEQR, designation as sole source may publicly highlight the importance of the aquifer and facilitate enhanced protection. Additionally, 1984 legislation directs DEC to develop a program regulating

certain incompatible uses over sole source aquifers. These uses pertain to hazardous waste and hazardous material handling and storage. This program, as yet unfunded, has great potential for aquifer protection.

- Local governments can adopt their own ordinances which regulate land use activities over local water supplies.

ONE ONLY has to look to Nassau County, Long Island, to understand how rapid and poorly planned development can deteriorate underground water supplies. Chemical contamination has caused the closing of several public water supply wells and has eliminated the availability of drinking water in the uppermost layer of their three-tiered aquifer system.

The primary aquifers in the Capital Region and the Long Island aquifer have similar geologic characteristics. This means that our aquifers are just as vulnerable to contamination. According to DEC statistics the Schenectady aquifer contains:

- 15 landfills and hazardous waste sites, all of which are potentially or actually contaminating groundwater.
- 7 bulk oil storage sites.
- 17 industrial chemical storage facilities.
- 5 permitted sand and gravel operations (actual

operation of the mining facility may not directly contribute to groundwater problems but use of the site as a landfill after mining is completed often leads to dumping of toxic materials).

The nature of the soil in many primary aquifers facilitates rapid seepage of contaminants into groundwater

reserves. Depending on the substance, it is very difficult if not impossible, to remove the contaminant. In addition, groundwater moves very slowly, from 5 to 50 feet per year, so it may take centuries before contamination is naturally flushed from the system. Once groundwater has been contaminated and violates established standards, public water supply wells drawing from the impacted area must cease operations. The water supplier can either locate alternative sources of supply or construct treatment facilities to address the contamination. The costs of such remediation, eventually borne by consumers, are enormous.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL threats to Schenectady's aquifer are already significant. In order to prevent activities which may further threaten our aquifers, a combined effort by state agencies and local governments to prudently manage our groundwater resources is necessary. *The role of citizens in that process is critical.* The most effective lobbying takes place at the local level by citizens contacting county, city, town and village officials. Citizen participation and oversight will ensure that our valuable water resources will be protected for future generations.

Jeff Skelding is the program coordinator for the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, an Albany based environmental organization working for the protection of New York's water resources.

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Homelessness: A New Twist on an Old Problem

by Fred Griesbach

The great companies did not know that the line between hunger and anger is a thin line.
--John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

HOMELESSNESS IS BY NO means a new problem. However, it is one that has almost disappeared from the public conscience in the post World War II era. Those who remained on the street tended to be male alcoholics who inhabited specific areas of a city, the most notable of which was the Bowery in New York City. Then, in the late 1970's, something went dramatically wrong and over the last decade homelessness has reemerged to become one of the most serious social problems in the country and in this state. Despite a ten-fold increase in government spending on homelessness, the problem has gotten progressively worse.

The numbers paint a grim, even startling, picture of a growing and changing population. In 1984 the State Department of Social Services has estimated that as many as 100,000 people are homeless in New York and, although there is no way to verify the accuracy of this estimate, there is clear documentation of the fact that approximately 40,000 people are in some form of private or public shelter on any given night in this state. Both the estimate of the total homeless population and the actual number of people being sheltered have doubled in the last five years.

WITH THE growth in numbers has come a change in the population. No longer is the typical homeless person a single male in his mid-fifties. Today's homeless include thousands of families; nearly half of the 40,000 being sheltered are children of homeless families. Youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty one are emerging as one of the fastest growing groups among the homeless population. The adult population has also changed as the average age has dropped from the the early thirties and now includes a much larger number of single women.

Even the geography of homelessness is shifting. In 1984, when State Department of Social Services released its report on homelessness in New York State, there were 3000 people sheltered outside of New York City; 15% of the population. Today, Westchester County alone has 4,500 people in its shelter system. There are over 1,000 on Long Island and over 700 in Orange County.

IN MOST upstate cities, the homeless population is smaller, but growing rapidly. The city of Syracuse sheltered an average of 450 people per night in 1987, a nightly increase of seventy five people over the previous year. Buffalo is sheltering over 400 people and has added two new family shelters in the past two years. Nonetheless, for the first time the city has had to rely on hotel rooms to provide shelter because their regular

facilities are full.

Locally, the situation is no better. On any given night in the Capital District there are approximately 390 people being sheltered. Just two years ago there were 280 shelter beds in the area. And, as with the rest of the state, there has been a change in the nature of the population. In 1984 youths constituted 5% of the clients served by the Travelers Aid CESIS Project. In 1988 the percentage has tripled; over 15% are between 16 and 20 years old. Families now comprise nearly 25% of the CESIS caseload and Albany recently opened its second family shelter while Schenectady is about to open its first.

THE SPECTER of men and women sleeping in our parks, of small children living in shelters, raises the question: How did this happen? How did a problem, virtually non-existent in most of this state ten years ago, spread so far and effect so many people so quickly?

There is a part of each of us that clings to the notion that homeless people are epitomized by a Francis Phalen, a man whose life was scuttled by some personal tragedy, and who could be viewed as *choosing* the rough life of the street. If pressed, we can find the homeless individual who will fit this description. But, more often than not, it is poverty, not personal idiosyncrasy, which lies at the root of today's homelessness.

In 1975, a family of three on public assistance in this State had an income that was 110% of the generally accept poverty level. By 1985, the basic grant was less than 65% of poverty. One of every four children in this state is poor.

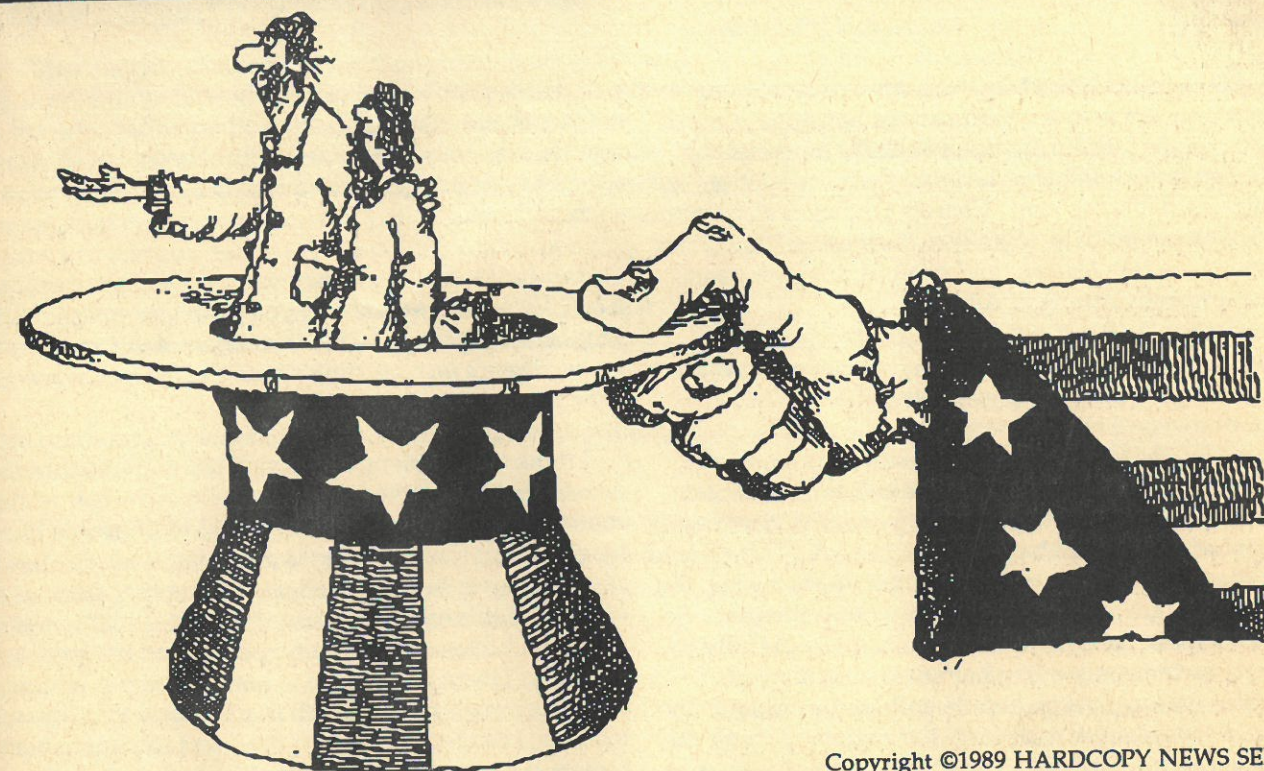
POOR PEOPLE are competing in a housing market that has become increasingly more expensive.

In 1984, the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal estimated that there was a shortage of approximately one million housing units in New York. Since that estimate was published the housing market has not improved.

Apartment vacancy rates in most urban areas, including cities like Albany and New York, hover around one or two percent. For apartments that are affordable to the poor, the vacancy rate is nearer to zero. Rents for apartments that are available are enormously expensive. The median rent for a two bedroom apartment in Orange and Dutchess Counties exceeds not only the public assistance shelter allowance, but the entire grant.

Units that are affordable are often in poor

HARDLOOK by John Caldwell



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condition. It has been estimated that, in certain rural areas, up to one third of the housing stock is substandard.

For those with special needs — the mentally ill, the physically disabled, youth, and people with AIDS — the struggle is even more difficult. Neither needing nor wanting institutional care but not always able to be independent, they must face the prospect of too few beds in too few programs. For groups like those who suffer from mental illness, the promise of community care remains just that, a promise.

GOVERNMENT, FOR its part, has not ignored the plight of homeless people. In fact, during the next fiscal year, federal, state, and local governments will spend approximately one half billion dollars on programs to feed, shelter and house the homeless, a ten-fold increase over the spending ten years ago, when the figure was under \$50 million.

Despite this tremendous investment of resources the problem of homelessness is worse than ever. In part, this is because we have chosen to manage the problem of homelessness rather than to solve it. Our money is being poorly spent.

The state has underwritten an enormously expensive shelter system which may provide very necessary immediate relief, but does not end homelessness. Meanwhile, the commitment to low income housing development is only beginning to take shape. Expenditures on soup kitchens and food pantries are growing rapidly while the people on public assistance are not getting enough of a grant to live on. And perhaps most telling of all is the fact that, although it costs thousands of dollars per month to keep families in shelters, the state is committing less than \$5 million per year for homelessness prevention, which includes training in life skills.

Stealing from the role of the Ghost of Christmas yet to come, unless these things change, the situation will only get worse. Unless we spend more money and spend that money more wisely on raising the basic grant, on creating more permanent housing, on preventing homelessness from happening — unless we do these things, the ranks of the homeless will continue to swell.

Fred Griesbach is Director of the New York State Coalition for the Homeless in Albany.



Building Communities: An Interview with Charles Touhey

*In the elder days of Art, Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part; For the Gods see everywhere.
—Longfellow, The Builders*

IN ORDER TO GAIN some insight into the problems a developer faces in providing affordable housing, HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD interviewed Charles Touhey, an Albany developer who specializes in building affordable housing. Charles Touhey is also known for his involvement in local politics during the 70's, when he opposed the late Mayor, and head of the Democratic machine, Erastus Corning of Albany.

As a developer, what does it take to develop affordable housing?

Obviously, the first thing of all you need is land. Without land you can't subsidize the building. The state and localities have been concentrating on inner city areas because that's the most obvious place to start. There's land that's been laying fallow, you can pick it up for a song, the municipalities are very happy to see it rehabilitated. So we've been concentrating in those areas, and rightfully so. However, there is only a fixed amount of land available in inner cities, vacant lots. There is still land available, and the land available is available in the region. I think the focus has been too much on urban areas, inner city areas, at the expense of suburban areas.

If a region or a society is really committed to housing the homeless, and I don't mean warehousing the homeless, but providing a stable, affordable, long-term home ownership situation, the towns and the region has to start looking at setting aside land, land banking, like the city is doing somewhat now in Community Land Trust through the United Tenants of Albany. Land needs to be set aside so that that most important component is there to then, in turn, piggy-back subsidies or whatever to make the house affordable to a family.

That's the cutting edge. People have got to start looking to the towns to do their fair share. I think it's been proven that... there was a big stink about Yonker's public housing, but there've been many surveys that show that integrated housing economically works. As long as you don't have a high concentration of poor families with massive social problems stacked in a high rise next to a community — that has been proven not to work.

But to build low-rise, low density, integrated economically and racially, that, believe it or not, the good rubs off on the bad. The bad habits — and when I say bad habits it's not that the people who are living in public housing are bad, but they have never had home ownership. They are fighting a losing battle every day, to get rid of crime and dirt in the halls, and given the chance to have their house, their front yard, you'd be surprised what pride

will do for people, and especially when you have a neighborhood where you have other people who are role models who keep that neighborhood up, that it all seems to come together and end up at a higher level, not a lower level.

Certainly it's been my experience in racial matters that a lot of it's just ignorance. If you grow up among white people or black people, whatever, you don't really know. There's just a certain amount of ignorance you have to get through.

I think the problem, and I confront it all the time as a developer in inner city areas, we have suburban whites coming in and saying "Well, what kind of people live here?" What they're doing is grouping a whole class of people, they're saying "Well, as long as I see persons of color, then this must be trouble." And it's totally wrong, of course, because they're good people and bad people of all races. Given the chance, when a minority family owns their own home, which is a business that I'm in all the time, I can take you down rows and rows of minority houses that are just as well kept, or better, than the houses in Delmar.

How much do you think that it's, to use Cuomo's theme, we are family, that there's still a certain amount of education that still has to be done?

Exactly. The basis of all prejudice is ignorance, and ignorance comes from not much contact between peoples of different economic backgrounds and races. That's really the business that I'm in, to bring those groups together and housing is a common denominator. My biggest explanation or "fear allayer," whatever you want to call it, when people ask me "Well gee, what kind of a neighborhood is this," like that, using code words behind the back. I say "Well you have to understand, it doesn't have to do with the color of a person's skin, it has to do with the pride of home ownership." And I bring that up and explain to them that if a person has a chance to own their own home they generally keep it up. Plus a person who goes through the mortgage process has got to somewhat of a steady risk, because the bank wouldn't loan them money either. And after I get through saying that the family says "Gee, I guess you're right." And that usually works and they end up living next to another family, who might be a minority family, and you never hear anything about it. They're talking over the fence to

each other... that's how a community is built.

So we just have to work at building our community.

That's right. That's why the thought of looking for land in the towns is not out of the question. The towns have been able to sit back and say, "gee, that's the city's problem," or "the federal government won't give us any money because we're too affluent." But meanwhile they're working under somewhat exclusionary zoning policies with these giant lot sizes and various things to zone out affordable housing. It's really a shame that that happens and it needs to be brought up on the social agenda. Because all it does is it furthers the economic and social-racial gap in society between the affluent and the poor.

Do you have any ideas about how we can go about building these communities?

If you landbank, if you get the costs of the land down to where it can be close to nothing... and, once again, we're not talking about vast tracts of land. If you look at the Capital District and the number of communities and municipalities there are, and everybody took ten or twenty, or thirty or even a hundred units of housing, you'd have thousands of units. Each municipality needs to do their own little bit.

So, there's the landbank, and you piggyback some sort of subsidy program, which would either be a grant from the state, a grant from the federal government, or some kind of write-down for a below market mortgage rate. And then an effective design of the house, which is very important. Not a giant apartment building, not a high rise. The single family house, perhaps the townhouse style, that's low-rise, low density, very affordable to build. And then go from there.

And so you've got a site planning issue too. If you go to the town's now they'll say "Gee, we're sorry, but our zoning

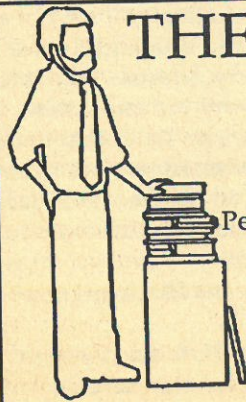
law requires a one-hundred foot frontage for a lot." Or you go out in the hill towns, they say you need five acres to build a house. Those kinds of restrictive zoning need to be looked at, at least for the low end, the families that are totally locked out.

I appreciate towns, people who live in suburbs — they moved to the suburbs to get away from the city. So they don't want to have another city out there. But we're not dealing with China here, or Europe, where land is totally used up. We still have an inventory of land.

Anyhow, it seems to me that diversity would do us all some good.

A life-long friend of mine, a minority person that lived in downtown Albany and was a renter, got a decent job with CDTA, participated in a local program so that he could get a home of his own, lived in downtown Albany in a home of his own, and was very happy. And then the forces in his family said we got to move to the suburbs now. He moved to the suburbs and he said "Charlie, it's just kind of sterile out there. It's a little too organized. It's so organized that people aren't bumping into each other."

He's used to the urban style, with its weaknesses — there's a little bit of crime, or whatever but... We build houses in inner city areas and we have the same, or probably less, vandalism than the suburban builders do. Suburban builders have people who come out there on weekends and break every single sliding glass door in the development. We occasionally, like one house out of a hundred, have somebody that may try to steal the copper for the drug money. But not a regular thing. In Albany you can't get away with vandalism because people are watching those houses every day. We build houses and we don't have any windows broken during construction or after construction. So that's a myth about inner city danger and things like that.




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An Interview with Ivan Garcia, Nicaraguan Economist. Part 1

by Barbara Grossman

*Where there is no vision, the people perish.
—Old Testament, Proverbs*

IVAN GARCIA IS AN economist in the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture. This interview, in which Garcia talks about how he attained his position in the Nicaraguan government, relations between Nicaragua and other countries, the Nicaraguan economy, and negotiations with the contras and the Miskito Indians, was conducted in the summer of 1988 while he was visiting his wife's family in the capital district.

Ivan, could you tell me a little bit about your background and what Nicaragua was like when you were young?

I was born in Nicaragua, and I lived there up to seventeen years of age, when I finished high school and entered a novitiate of the Jesuits. I followed the traditional training of Jesuit students, and then I taught for three years in a Jesuit high school in Guatemala City. Then I studied three years of theology in West Germany. I finished my theology in Toronto, and still being a Jesuit, I started studying agricultural economics at Ohio State University.

After one year of studying agricultural economics at Ohio State, I decided for personal reasons to leave the Jesuit order and the priesthood. I decided also to finish my agricultural economics studies, and I finished my masters degree at Ohio State University. Then I moved to Guatemala City, because I was not going to come back to live and to study in Nicaragua as long as Nicaragua was but a satellite of the United States and a farm of Somoza. So, I started working as an agricultural economist at the Common Market Office for Central America, Guatemala City, which is called the Central American Economic Integration Secretariat (SIECA).

This Office started in '63 or '64 when the five Central American countries, excluding Panama, signed a treaty of economic integration, and created a common market, which means that all the goods and services imported from the outside pay similar taxes in each of the countries and that the market between the countries was completely free. The goal was to achieve greater industrial development and also to create a stronger market unit in the face of the rest of the world.

In '69, however, there was this phony horrible war between El Salvador and Honduras, so although the Office still exists, it is not working very efficiently. Anyway, I worked there for four years, then one year at the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) offices in Guatemala. The USDA was doing a research project for the benefit of the small farmers of Guatemala, and I was named the president/coordinator of that project in 1977. In 1978, I worked with the Guatemalan government directly, in charge of the nutritional five-year plan, and then I got a

scholarship given by a Canadian institution — The International Development Research Center of Ottawa.

After that, I decided not to come back to Guatemala either, because Guatemala was becoming a very unjust place dominated by fascism, so I was looking for some job with the United Nations Development Fund. They offered me a job in the Dominican Republic as coordinator of a development project for agricultural development in the southern part of the Dominican Republic, but in the meantime, in June, 1979, Somoza fell from power.

I was here in Albany at that time waiting for the call from the United Nations, but at that moment, I decided to try to come back to Nicaragua. I got in contact with people of the new Nicaraguan government that were friends of mine, and they told me that they were really interested in having me work with them. So I started working with the Nicaraguan government in August, 1979. My reasons for coming back to Nicaragua were not only that I had made a promise to not work for Somoza, but also that I saw at that time the possibility of joining, in Nicaragua, religious convictions with political convictions — of working for the poor and the oppressed ones of my country. That corresponded with my conceptions of Christianity and agrarian revolution.

But, honestly speaking, when I came to Nicaragua, I was full of fears. I didn't know what was expected of me. But I had a basic trust in the Sandinistas — that they were going to be different from any other revolutionary government that I had known at that time — that they were going to be really interested in keeping human values and freedom, as much as possible. After eight years, I can (say) that I am very satisfied and free of these fears.

I have worked since the beginning in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, although I am not a member of the Sandinista party and although I have refused three times to join the party, because I don't feel fit, at my age now, to start the party life and I think it would be a compromise of my family. I told that to the Sandinistas, and they accepted my reasons. And I know they never lost the trust that had in me, because I have been the director of many divisions of the Ministry.

Can you tell me what Nicaragua was like when you were young?

Well, Somoza came to power in '33, when my older brother was born. The first thing he did was to kill Sandino. When I was born, Somoza was already in power and when I left Nicaragua, I had never experienced any other government in Nicaragua but

Somoza.

When I entered the novitiate in '54, there was an attempt to overthrow Somoza. Until the last moment, I was tempted not to enter the novitiate, but to join the ranks of the revolutionary Civil Guard in trying to overthrow Somoza.

And Somoza finally died despite all the care he got. Eisenhower had sent his personal helicopter to bring him to Panama. I remember all of my family congregated around the radio, listening to the news, agonizing because it seemed that Somoza was going to (recover).

After that, the repression was very brutal, and the Somozas still stayed until they were overthrown by friends of Sandinistas — that was 25 years later.

Will you tell me a little more about the war you mentioned between El Salvador and Honduras?

That was one of the stupidest things Central America has had. Well, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as Guatemala and Nicaragua, had strong armies — too strong for the size of our countries, and in Central America, traditionally, each country quarrels with its neighbors. We have always had very friendly relations with Guatemala, because Guatemala doesn't have any common borders with Nicaragua. (Laughter) We had had, more or less, good relations also with El Salvador because we are separated by (the) Gulf. But we always have been at odds with Hondurans and Costa Ricans. The Guatemalans are at odds with Salvadorans and Hondurans, the Hondurans with Guatemalans, etc.

In Salvador and Honduras, soccer is a very popular thing — in Nicaragua, it's baseball, the typical country invaded by US marines. (Laughter) El Salvador and Honduras and Guatemala and Costa Rica had to fight for who was to represent the Central America/Mexico region in the world championship of soccer every four years. There was a very decisive game in San Salvador between Honduras and El Salvador, and I think that Honduras won the game. The game was contested and there were fights in the stadium and then afterward a war. (Laughter)

The war didn't stop until they ran out of bullets, but El Salvador invaded Honduras, and the Hondurans felt humiliated. And, of course, that stopped the common market. That had consequences on all the rest of the countries, because with the common market Central America was an economic unit, more or less, and because Honduras and El Salvador closed (their) border to each other, it prevented the other Central American countries from trading with each other because they could not pass through Honduras and El Salvador.

Do you think that latest political peace initiative in some way has something to do with the goal of economic unity?

You know, despite all the wars and all the differences and the fights between Nicaragua and Honduras, we have

had continuous trade and although the common market is not working, all the countries have bilateral trade arrangements. We have learned that we depend on each other.

I would like to know something about the economic effects of war on Nicaragua.

I think that the economy of Nicaragua is really very delicate. We call it an economy of survival, which is little short of a war economy, but is part of the war economy. The country itself is not wholly involved in a war, but there is a war that really affects the economy heavily. I live in Managua. You don't see any military fighting in Managua. Managua right now is the safest city, in terms of crime, in Central America. And, according to friends of mine that come from outside, you see more military presence and repression in the rest of the Central American countries — excluding Costa Rica — than in Managua.

But despite that, everyday you feel the consequences of the war. For three years, I have been teaching four classes a week — political economy and economics — in the high school my kids go to. In those three years, three of my students have been killed on the battlefield.

That is everyday life in Nicaragua. The sons of two of my friends have been killed. And almost every week, you see the mourning of some kid who was brought dead from the battlefield. Everyday there is news from the countryside (that) a cooperative was assaulted, that all the people of the cooperative were killed, and so on. In the Ministry of Agriculture, each month we lose several technicians who work along the border and are ambushed and killed.

The centers affected by the war are really small villages, rural cooperatives, and so on. No major city and not even a small city has been taken by the contras for more than four hours. But that doesn't mean that the war is not affecting us. And the war is affecting the economy, because any time they attack, the Contras destroy whatever they can besides lives. They want to cripple the economy. We think that the losses of the war may be in between 1500 and 3000 million dollars. Just from the war. Besides, we have to devote 40% of our budget to defense. That weighs very heavily on the economy of Nicaragua.

And we have made mistakes in the economic organization of the country — mistakes that are very understandable. We had fixed a set of prices for inputs, some exports, and some products, that became very artificial.

Not market pricing?

Right, because we wanted to protect our consumers. Basic food is protected and the basic inputs for

agricultural production are subsidized. But what comes out of that — some months ago, it was much cheaper to buy a gallon of gasoline than a watermelon in Managua. (Laughter) That's the result of all these artificial prices. And that brought the economy into a real mess. We needed to get out of that and to make things acquire the international price they have to have. But that meant evolving the economy, so in February, we instituted some monetary reform.

All that really shakes up the economy. It's a real shock to the household economy of every family. We have other problems we must deal with — the controlling of inflation, the reaching of real economic prices, and the organization of production, because our productivity is still at a low level.

Another problem is that when the revolution came, for the first four years, the workday for rural people decreased from six or seven hours to two or three hours a day, so I think they thought that they were going to have a permanent vacation. (Laughter) It is normal for the rural workday to be shorter than the urban workday because it is heavier work, but now although the rural workday has gone back to six or seven hours, we still have production problems.

Just agricultural, or industrial, too?

Also industrial. But industry means very little in Nicaragua. We have some industry going on, but it is very limited. Our economic development has to be based on agriculture.

Are you talking about crops for domestic consumption or for export?

For export. Nicaragua exports cotton, coffee, sugarcane, tobacco, beef, sesame seed. We could export cocoa. We are a relatively good exporter of gold and silver, but we lack other mineral resources. We don't have oil or coal or iron. So our wealth is agricultural and cattle wealth.

At least yours in not a monocrop economy.

No, but we have trouble, because in the international market, all the products we export are diminishing in price while the things we need — machinery and equipment — are increasing. International terms of trade are becoming worse and worse for Nicaragua as well as for the rest of the Third World, but especially for Nicaragua. When we started the revolution, we saw the destruction of 80 percent of the little industry we had and we faced large-scale smuggling of our cattle in the first year. Our cattle stock is reduced to one third of what it was.

Who smuggled it?

Nicaraguans taking cattle to Honduras and to Costa Rica — the big private owners of cattle. Also, when we started the revolution, the government only found four

million dollars in the vault of the central bank, where 40 millions were supposed to be. Somoza (had) stolen the rest. Cuba didn't have to face that. The Cuban economy was intact when Fidel took over, but ours was in a shambles. And at that time, there was an international economic crisis. All that added up and it will take years to get out of that mess.

You were talking about the large cattle owners that took their animals to Honduras. Were they a very large factor in the Nicaraguan economy? What percentage of the people owned most of the wealth in Nicaragua at that time?

Well, at that time, cattle were the third largest foreign currency generating export product of Nicaragua. On the agricultural side, before the revolution, 43 percent of the farmland belonged to four percent of the owners. And 42 percent of the owners owned only three percent of the land.

On the industrial side, Somoza and the big private owners controlled 60 or 70 percent of the industry. Now, on the industrial side, 60 percent is controlled by the state and 40 percent by private enterprise. But on the commercial and the service side, the government doesn't control more than 20 percent, even now.

It's a really mixed economy, whether we like that or not. We cannot be anything but (a) mixed economy, because we do not have the capacity to control all this property that now belongs to the private sector.

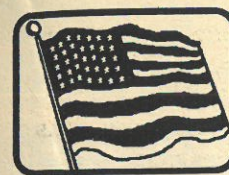
What effect does the fear of attack have on the economy of Nicaragua?

It was very strong in '83, after the Grenada invasion. We were sure that we were going to be attacked in that month or the next month — in December.

By the U.S. government?

Almost everybody feared that. But now that all this time has passed, we think it is less likely. It would be a big mistake, not only politically, but also militarily. I mean, we know that the United States army can take control of Nicaragua, can invade the country and subject the country, but it's not going to be easy — like Vietnam. So, I will say that I feel more secure that it won't happen, but I am not 100 percent sure of that.

Barbara Grossman is a free-lance writer living in Albany. She is a Senior Associate with Third World Reports. Part two of this interview will appear next month.



Why The Bush Presidency Won't Work

by E.J. Woodhouse

Once there were two brothers. One ran away to sea, the other became Vice-President, and nothing was ever heard of either of them again.
—Thomas R. Marshall, *Recollections*

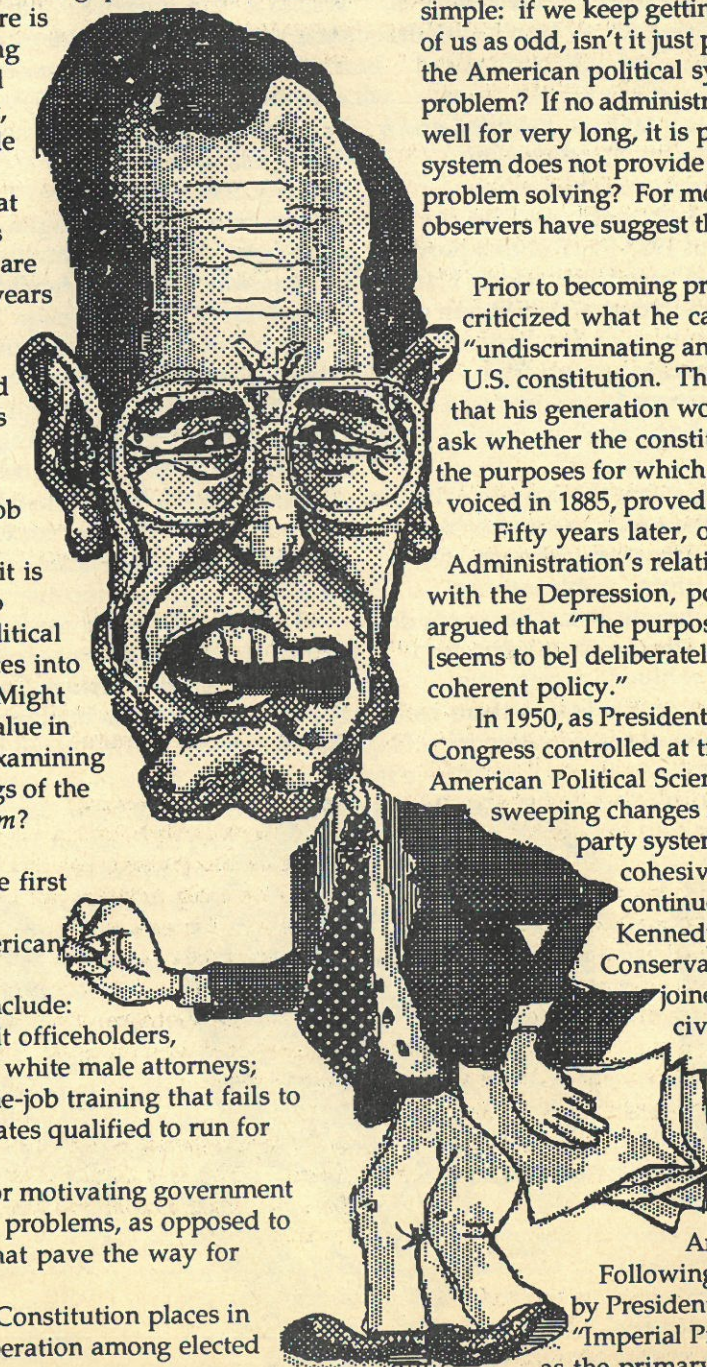
WILL GEORGE BUSH'S APTITUDES and ideology interfere with intelligent governance in the 1990s? "Certainly," many readers will respond — "just look at his stand on taxes." But other observers, with different partisan preferences, perceive outstanding qualities in the new president. In general, there is little prospect of achieving agreement on the personal qualities of any president, unless he strays far outside acceptable bounds.

Nor is it apparent that politician-bashing yields much constructive effect: are we better off after eight years of hearing about former president Reagan's personal shortcomings and queer ideas? Such attacks make fun reading, and no recent president has been competent enough at his job to avoid myriad (mostly justified) criticisms. But it is almost never clear how to translate analyses of political leaders' personal attributes into effective improvement. Might there be more enduring value in political commentaries examining fundamental shortcomings of the American political system?

THIS ARTICLE is the first of a series exploring the possibility that the American system is outdated and dangerous. Topics will include:

- The way we recruit officeholders, leading to dominance by white male attorneys;
- Poor quality on-the-job training that fails to develop a pool of candidates qualified to run for president;
- Weak incentives for motivating government officials to actually solve problems, as opposed to taking pleasing stands that pave the way for re-election;
- High barriers the Constitution places in the way of effective cooperation among elected officials;

Olansen



• The privileged position of business in American politics.

By way of introduction, this month's commentary traces the long history of dissatisfaction with the American political system. The essential idea is simple: if we keep getting presidents who strike many of us as odd, isn't it just possible that some oddities in the American political system are the underlying problem? If no administration succeeds in governing very well for very long, it is perhaps because our political system does not provide mechanisms for effective problem solving? For more than a century thoughtful observers have suggest this to be so.

Prior to becoming president, Woodrow Wilson criticized what he called the widespread "undiscriminating and almost blind worship" of the U.S. constitution. The future president predicted that his generation would be "the first Americans to ask whether the constitution is still adapted to serve the purposes for which it was intended." That hope, voiced in 1885, proved somewhat premature.

Fifty years later, observing the Roosevelt Administration's relatively unsuccessful efforts to cope with the Depression, political scientist Harold Laski argued that "The purpose of American institutions [seems to be] deliberately to prevent the making of coherent policy."

In 1950, as President Truman struggled with a Congress controlled at times by the opposition party, the American Political Science Association called for sweeping changes in the structure of the American party system. Instead of becoming more cohesive, however, political parties continued to erode under Eisenhower and Kennedy — and thereafter.

Conservative Southern Democrats often joined with Republicans to block civil rights legislation, federal aid to education, and other programs that most other western nations enacted decades earlier. James MacGregor Burns and others warned of a "deadlock" of American democracy.

Following extensive, systematic, abuses by Presidents Johnson and Nixon, the "Imperial Presidency" came to be perceived as the primary threat to democratic

governance. The president was too strong. The War Powers Act and other legislation attempted to rein-in presidential prerogatives, and Congress reorganized itself. These deliberate steps did not prove very successful.

Nevertheless, from being Satan during 1966-74, the president soon came to look like Samson shorn of his hair. Non-elected President Ford presided ineffectually for two years. Then an outsider to Washington, Jimmy Carter, proved unable to govern even with a majority of his own party in control of Congress. The problem in this era was the president's *weakness* in the face of an unruly Congress, slow-moving bureaucracy, and complex problems with the economy, foreign policy, and moral issues like drugs and abortion.

Then came President Reagan's landslide victory, and a flurry of legislation in 1981-82. This "Conservative Revolution" was widely compared with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legislation of 1964-65, and with FDR's sweeping New Deal programs of 1933-34. Did this prove that the century of criticisms had been unfounded? Hardly. With a few exceptions such as tax reform, the Reagan era soon returned to the long-term pattern of desultory governance: little action on acid rain, essentially no energy policy, continuing decline in the manufacturing sector, huge trade deficits, and so on.

TWO IMPRESSIONS emerge from this review. First, no matter who governs and what they do, a serious problem with American government is almost always perceived to exist. Second, the exact nature of the problem shifts, seemingly unpredictably, every decade or so. No sooner does a criticism get to be established wisdom than it becomes outdated.

One perverse interpretation of this is that there really isn't anything basically wrong because the system is

self-correcting. But would we call a television set "self-correcting" if it alternated among inappropriate degrees of loudness, brightness, and hue? Surely we seek, in politics as well as technology, mechanisms that perform fairly well most of the time. And the American political system manifestly does not.

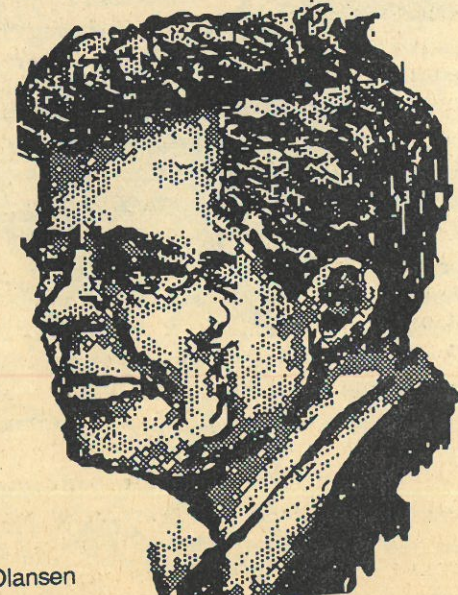
Fortunately, calls for fundamental change continue, as in James Sundquist's recent *Constitutional Reform and Effective Governance*. Sundquist argues that the U.S. system is "too congenitally divided, too prone to stalemate, too conflict-ridden to meet its immense responsibilities." He proposes a range of practical reforms, some of which might win wide approval. And President Carter's chief counsel, Lloyd Cutler, observed during his time in the White House a "structural inability of our government to propose, legislate, and administer a balanced program for governing." He went on to help initiate a Committee on the Constitutional System, which now has issued a series of thoughtful proposals.

For now, we are stuck with the system we've inherited, and the experience of the past century provides excellent reason to expect that fundamental deficiencies in the American political system will contribute to mediocre governance during the Bush Administration. Future installments in this series will undertake more detailed exploration of the problems and the proposed remedies.

E. J. Woodhouse is associate professor of political science at RPI. His most recent book, coauthored with Joseph Morone, is *Averting Catastrophe: Strategies for Regulating Risky Technologies*. It can be ordered from the University of California Press.

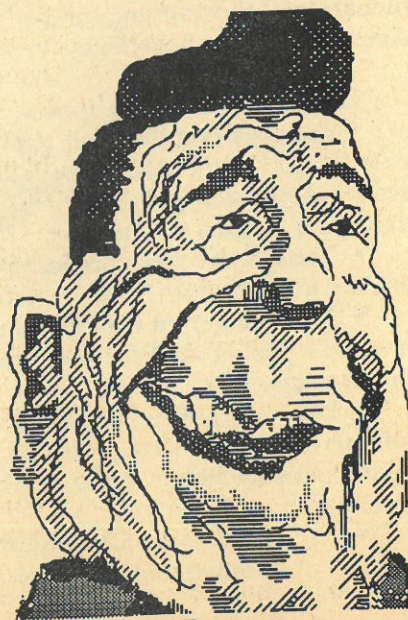


Roosevelt



Olansen

Kennedy



Reagan

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HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD



So...You Have Bats?!

by Stephen C. Frantz

Knowledge is the only instrument of production that is not subject to diminishing returns.
—J.M. Clark *Journal of Political Economy*

HOW MANY TIME HAVE I had someone on the other end of the telephone saying, "I have a bat in my house, can you please help me?" Often the voice simultaneously expresses fear, repugnance, and a sense of total helplessness. Why? What are the real issues regarding bats? What should you do?

Let's review a few scenarios regarding bats in and about one's home, how one might cope with such intrusions, and why bats are significant in terms of public health and the environment.

Scenario 1: A bat is in your living quarters.

You already may have experienced this all-too-familiar situation. In the middle of the night you are awakened by the soft fluttering sound of wings above your head. You carefully open your eyes to see the recognizable silhouette of a bat flying across the room. Panic commonly ensues. This might involve loud, incoherent vocalization (i.e., screaming), burying oneself under every blanket and cover that can be reached without setting foot outside the bed, calling the police — of course, only if a phone can be reached from under the covers — and, in some cases, making a mad dash for a door.

In the event that physical contact with a bat has occurred, capture the bat without damaging its head and immediately contact your physician.

If no bite or physical contact has occurred, the most reasonable response to the occasional bat intruder is simply to allow it to escape by opening a window and/or exterior door. It is best to isolate the bat in one room, and to keep at least a dim light on in the room in order to observe the bat's exit. Note that many people want to open the exterior door and window, then leave the room. The problem then is in knowing whether or not the bat exited, or is hiding in the curtain, under the bed, behind a book on a shelf, etc. Staying in the room with a light turned on allows you to watch the bat leave, and then to close the window and/or exterior door to prevent reentry.

If the bat appears to have difficulty finding the openings through which to escape, you'll have to capture it. Wait for the bat to come to rest, quickly cover it with a coffee can or similar container [wear reasonably thick gloves at all times], slide a piece of cardboard or magazine under the can to trap the bat inside, then take the can-with-bat outdoors and release it. The bat will be as "happy" to get away as you are to have it out of your house.

Note that virtually all bats in the United States are insectivorous, can eat insects *only*, and have no interest in people.

At this point you should try to determine how the bat

was able to enter your living quarters. If an unscreened door or window was open, closing it may solve the problem. Make certain that all doors and windows are in good repair, fit tightly, and are properly screened (where ventilation is necessary). Exterior vents for bathrooms, kitchens, and dryers also should be appropriately screened if bats are a recurring problem. The chimney of a fireplace is another possible entry point and should be covered with hardware cloth (half-inch mesh will prevent bat entry and will not significantly reduce the flue draft) or sealed if it is no longer in use. Loose chimney flashing on a roof is a common entry point which can be sealed with very little difficulty.

Scenario 2: A bat or bats are roosting in the attic area.

The bats commonly found in houses and other buildings in the northeast are the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Both species prefer rather hot, dark, stagnant shelter sites for rearing their young — for example, attics, crawl spaces, soffits, between layers of a roof, behind chimneys. Depending on species, the number of bats may range from a few individuals to a colony of well over a thousand animals.

Regardless of the number of animals, the first intervention should be to ensure that bats in the attic area do not have access to the living quarters below, including the basement. Both bat species can pass through openings as small as 1/4 x 1 1/2 inches (6 x 38 mm) and all such openings, or larger ones, connecting the attic area to the living quarters should be sealed. Look for: openings under the attic door (or around the ceiling hatch leading to an attic); gaps around ceiling light fixtures, mouldings and chimneys; holes above dropped ceiling panels and in unfinished closets; openings for access to plumbing, heating, and air conditioning equipment; and unscreened vents leading to the attic or crawl space.

For buildings with hollow walls, you should also consider that bats sometimes pass through such spaces from an attic to a basement. Thus it may be necessary to block-off potential bat entry into the basement at the sill plate/wall interface. Note that during the cold months of the year, (a few) big brown bats may hibernate in a basement; proper closure of access to this space can prevent surprise visitors in the winter.

The next intervention for managing colonies roosting in buildings involves removing/excluding bats in those cases where humans, pets and/or valuable livestock are

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at risk to being bitten or coming in contact with the bats. Thus colonies in outbuildings and abandoned buildings might be ignored.

Where exposure risks are evident, a bat watch should be conducted. This involves at least two people posted at opposite corners of a building (additional people may be necessary in order to observe all sides of some buildings) to observe for flying bats. The bat watch should be initiated about 30 minutes before dark and be continued for one hour. Such observations will tell you where the bats exit and enter a structure and will indicate the colony size. Obviously a bat watch is only appropriate during the warmer months (April through October in upstate New York) when bats occupy human structures and forage outdoors nightly for insects.

Once exit points have been identified, minor openings often can be closed without affecting bat movements as long as the major holes remain open. The preferred method of excluding bats at the major openings is through application of checkvalves. In essence, these are one-way devices allowing bats to exit a building but preventing their re-entry. Checkvalves, as with any exclusion measure, should be applied only before young are born or after young are able to fly.

Scenario 3: Bats are roosting outdoors under window shutters, a sign against a building wall, or trim.

Unless these animals are numerous and causing damage such as urine and guano staining the building's paint, streaking windows, etc., or unless children or pets are at risk, ignoring them may be justified. Otherwise, some minor structural modification should really solve the problem. Shutters, whether functional or decorative, can be made less desirable for roosting by increasing the space between the shutter and the wall behind to at least a total of 1 1/2 - 2 inches. Also, some shutters have movable louvers which should be placed in the "open" position to discourage bat roosting.

Scenario 4. Bats are flying outdoors near lights, swimming pools etc.

Generally one should simply appreciate the ecological role of these animals as consumers of vast quantities of insects. Bats often will fly near people but that does not constitute an "attack" as some people often report. Genuine unprovoked attacks on people or other animals are not common and are more likely to occur with a rabid bat than with a healthy one. While rabies is found in bats throughout the United States, including New York State, a random sample would probably show under 1% infected.

If Bitten...

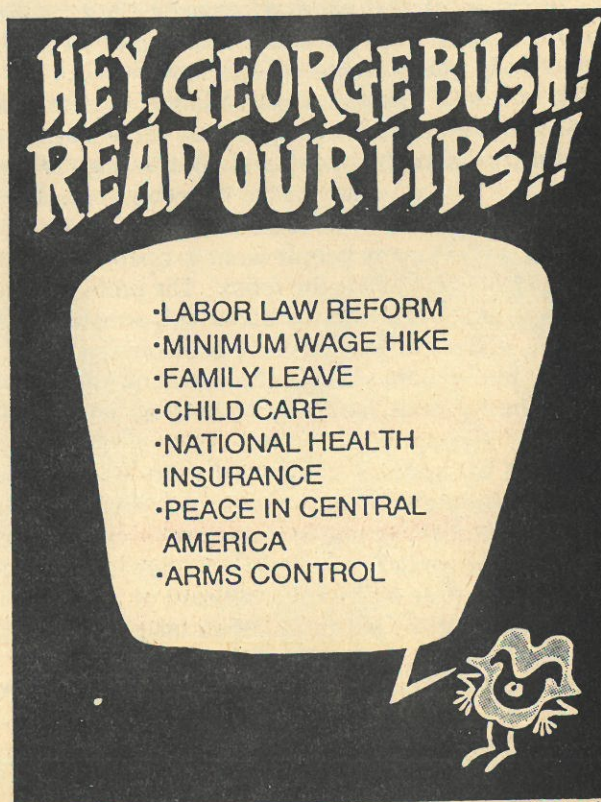
Public health issues regarding bats will be described in a future issue. However, if someone is bitten by a bat, or if they come in contact with bat saliva or central nervous

system tissue (by smashing a bat with a tennis racket -- strongly NOT recommended) there is a potential for exposure to rabies. The following few steps will greatly reduce the risk of rabies transmission:

1. Immediately, the person should thoroughly wash the wound or exposed area with soap and water.
2. Capture the bat without damaging its head.
3. Seek medical attention right away.
4. Contact the local health authority in order to have the captured bat examined for rabies.

THIS ARTICLE is written primarily as an informative introduction to the subject of house bats and additional issues and details will be discussed later. However if your needs are urgent, information can be obtained from local health authorities. You also can direct questions to the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research, the research arm of the New York State Department of Health. For inquiries concerning bat rabies, contact the Rabies Laboratory at (518) 869-4527 [after hours, at (518) 465-9720]. For inquiries regarding bat infestations, contact the Holistic Vertebrate Vector Management Program at (518) 869-4527.

Dr. Stephen Frantz is the Vertebrate Vector Specialist at the Wadsworth Center for Laboratories and Research, New York State Department of Health.



SHUCK
HUCK CONCEPTS

FEBRUARY, 1989

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MIDI Means Music: An Interview With Joel Chadabe

by Bill Benzon & Don Rittner

JOEL CHADABE HAS BEEN involved with electronic music since 1965. He teaches at SUNY Albany and at Bennington College and founded Intelligent Music in 1986. Intelligent Music has created several software packages (M, Jam Factory, UpBeat, Ovaltune, and MidiDraw) for use in creating music with personal computers. Frank Zappa, infamous mother of musical invention, Oscar Peterson, Canada's gift to jazz piano, Jan Hammer, creator of music for "Miami Vice," and Wendy Carlos, synthesizer pioneer, are among those who have used Intelligent Music's software.

Most music software packages are the musician's equivalent of word processors. They help with the purely mechanical aspects of creating music, but don't play any role in generating and elaborating musical ideas.

Intelligent Music's products are different. In Chadabe's words, they "deal with real-time interactive programming and performing. In other words, you are hearing the music as you make it, as you affect it. Other programs out there are sequencers, which operate like a tape recorder. All they do is play back a sequence of notes you put in. Our programs are more intelligent than most word processors. If you could imagine, for example, a word processor that would help you write the report according to a certain sense of your style and the way you are working. That it would help you finish sentences and fill in some details and things of that sort. You could go much faster and see the whole report developing in front of your eyes and then, as you changed it, you would see it redeveloping."

The following interview took place over sandwiches and beer at a local bar. The bar is not, of course, responsible for any incoherence in the interview.

Do you really have to be a true musician in the sense of where you really have to know the music to use your products?

Well, not really, because you're hearing as you're doing it. It's a wonderful experimental and learning environment so you can try things out. It encourages non-musicians to discover their own creativity. You hear it while you are doing it so you can change it in any way you want to. You don't have to have a lot of predictive knowledge. Of course you'll gain it. But you don't have to think "If I do this, it will produce that at some time in the future." Because you're hearing immediately the results of everything you do.

Where do you think music, or computer music, is going to go from here? What does this all mean?

Basically, we're inventing a new musical instrument. It is

Once I was visiting my Aunt Marge. She was doing her laundry. She turned to me and said, "You know?" I love this machine much more than I do your Uncle Walter."
--John Cage, Silence

more accessible, more powerful, easier to play, more rewarding.

Music for the rest of us?

Not only music for the rest of you, it's also music for musicians. It's music for everybody.

It seems to me that to some extent it lessens the demands for technical virtuosity. I was a drummer for 15 years and I always wished I had taken the time to learn guitar or piano. And I just said there's no way, knowing the kind of person I am, that I'd never have the patience to do it know. I have music in my head, but I don't really know music.

Well, certainly it takes away the need for the same kind of athletic skills. So that you can make music at a very intelligent musical level even if you haven't studied the instrument for 20 years. The real discovery of talent and creativity is an important part.

For it really does bring out the creative juices of people who didn't have the fortune to be able to spend all those years learning the mechanics.

Yes, but I do want to emphasize that it is also a wonderful instrument for professional musicians who do know how to play instruments. It allows you to do wonderful things that you can't do with any other instrument. It means that I'm performing, not an instrument, but an orchestra. Conductor and performer together.

What does this mean for music, five or ten years from now. When we go to a concert are we going to see people just playing with dials?

My God no! There are many richer kinds of performance devices. The dial is not a very sensitive way of performing. You can use keyboards, foot pedals, musicians have devised ways of so you can wave your hands in the air and produce music.

So you could put switches on your body and jump around?

Of course. Switches or TV cameras. You can play drums, you can play strings, you can play guitar, you can play any instrument known to man.

I was reading an article by Alan Kay [computer wizard

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who works for Apple] on computers and music. But back in his days at Xerox PARC [Palo Alto Research Center] it was easy to produce things for kids to draw with computers. But getting stuff that helped them with music was much more difficult. To some extent you make music with your body... and it was just much harder to link that up to the computer than drawing pictures or managing words.

Well, it is certainly happening now. You know, all the companies are doing it. Yamaha has just introduced a new wind controller [that is, a device which woodwind players play more-or-less as they would a saxophone but which sends signals to a synthesizer]. There's a lot of attention being paid to human interfaces, performance devices, how you perform the music.

One of the mystiques about music in the old days... people looked at it in mystical ways... being able to create music... go out to perform in bands... at least in the 60s. This has really sort of taken that away because what it's saying is that anyone can go out and create music.

No. The same mystique is there. It's just that the instrument is more available.

You still have to know how to play a piano.

So, as more people learn how to play electronic instruments they'll see how much better people on stage do. There's always going to be people who are better at it than not. The point is that electronic instruments allows you to be more creative. But they allow everyone to be more creative. However, it's true they will involve more people in making music, people who had not previously learned the skills of playing an instrument.

How's the music industry reacting to this? It's got to have

economic impact.

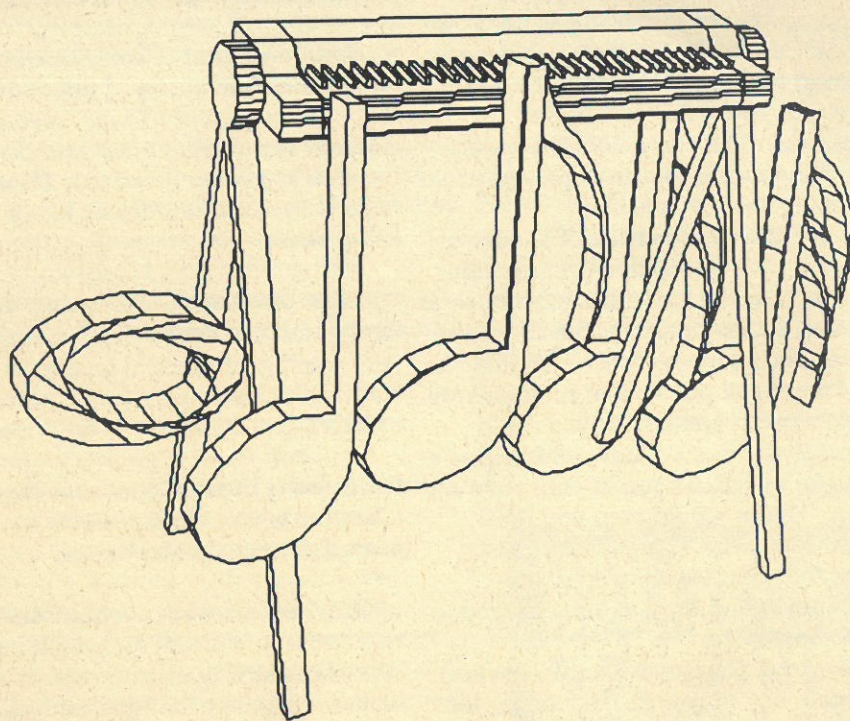
A lot of freelance musicians are losing work, freelance musicians of acoustic instruments.

It's like the blacksmith. If these musicians don't become computer-literate, they'll be out of a job.

Yes, I do think this. There will be a whole literature, that chamber music and symphonic music, that will certainly continue to exist for acoustic instruments that

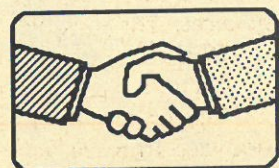
will exist as long as people want to play them and as long as people want to hear them. I do for example. I certainly enjoy symphony orchestras and am not at all eager for them to disappear. But it is definitely a narrower field. And unfortunately I think that I'm a bit exceptional. Because I think that increasingly that younger people find the sound of a symphony orchestra a rather dull. And they

prefer the flexibility and the brilliance of the sound of synthesizers.



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Technique and Content: MIDI, An Introduction

by Richard Lainhart

In 1983, there was a revolution in music-making. That was the year certain Japanese and American synthesizer manufacturers got together and formulated the MIDI standard. "MIDI" stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, a software and hardware protocol that lets synthesizers from different manufacturers speak to each other. Connect two MIDI synthesizers together, play a note on one synth, and the other synth plays the same note. Much of the music you hear on radio and television is created with MIDI instruments.

The real MIDI breakthrough, however, comes from the fact that it also allows computers and synthesizers to speak to each other. Using computers and synthesizers, a musician working alone can record all the different parts of a composition. Previously, he or she would have needed a band to play all the parts.

Programs which do this are called sequencers, which run on the computer and record MIDI data much as a tape recorder records sounds. A synthesizer is used to reproduce the different sounds needed for the compositions. The sequencer usually has features that let the composer compensate for a lack of instrumental technique. There are even programs which can aid in the composition process itself. The technology is getting cheaper and cheaper, making it accessible to many more people.

NO DOUBT you're wondering "A revolution that puts people out of work is a good thing?" It is true that some professional musicians aren't working as much as they used to because of MIDI. As a professional musician, I know how they feel. But I think that the losses suffered by professional musicians are offset by the gains achieved by the rest of the people — those who aren't pros. Now it's possible for nonprofessionals to sound like professionals.

Of course, MIDI does have a purely benevolent side. Consider the case of Teddy Prendergass, a famous gospel and pop singer-songwriter, who broke his neck in a car accident. He's now a quadriplegic, with very limited movement in his limbs. Before MIDI and computer-controlled instruments someone like Teddy Prendergass would have never played another note. But now he uses a special control device to put MIDI notes directly into his computer's sequencer. The computer then plays the notes back through MIDI synths with the right rhythms and notes, and he can build up a song that way. The sequencer lets him change things on any level, so that he can get it just right. He's paralyzed from the neck down, and can still play music.

Another quadriplegic musician sings notes into a microphone, which are converted by the computer into notes played by synthesizers. This musician can sing all the parts of a song, even the drum parts, and have the

computer play them back as a band.

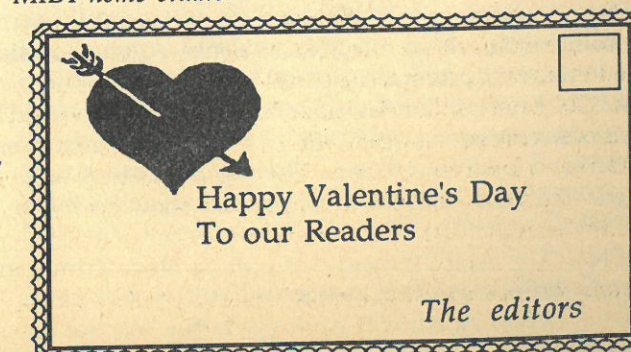
Many of us have ideas we would like to express in music, but don't have the technique to do so. We can't play the piano or the sax well enough. MIDI allows us to express those ideas. I read once (in Ripley's Believe It or Not) that some 30 million Americans play a musical instrument on some level, but that there are only about 100,000 professional musicians in the country. Clearly, there are a lot of people who want to make music, but don't want to be pros. Some of these amateurs are excellent players, but most aren't. MIDI is the great equalizer. There's still a lot to learn to make music, but it's getting a lot easier.

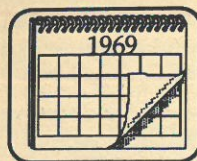
ALL THIS raises another question. If everyone can sound good, how do we make decisions about what we like? How can we tell what's good? Traditionally, you can listen to a performer play and, with only a little understanding of music, tell whether the performer can play or not, whether the performer knows the instrument or not. Now, with MIDI becoming increasingly important in the consumption of music, cues indicating the performer's technical facility matter less and less in the understanding of music. When everyone can sound good, sounding good becomes less important.

What we as listeners must do is listen harder to the content of the music and not concern ourselves so much with technique. We need to listen to what's being said, not how it's being said. Pay less attention to the form of the music, what the girl in the video is wearing, and more to the content — is there a real emotion in this music? Does this mean something to me?

MIDI doesn't spell the end of acoustic music, by any means. Nothing can equal the experience of sitting in a room with a real instrument and just playing. That will always be a valid experience for listeners. There are other experiences waiting, though, that didn't exist a few years ago. I think MIDI makes the creation of music available to more people than ever before, and I think that's all to the good.

Richard Lainhart is better known as Doc Scanlon. Richard has recorded compositions he created in his MIDI home studio.





Twenty Years Ago Today...

It Was Twenty Years Ago Today . . .

THE SIXTIES: Civil rights. Hari Krishna. Malcolm X. Vietnam. Rock 'n Roll. Communes. Tim Leary. The Environment. John Coltrane. *Easy Rider*. Feminism. John Lennon. LSD. The East Village Other. Robert Crumb. Nattering Nabobs of Negativism. The Sixties was all these and more. For many of us it was a time of immense promise, of new possibilities, of Revolution. For those we faced across picket lines it was a time of decadence and social disaster.

THE EIGHTIES: The Crash of 87. Jim and Tami Baker. Nicaragua. Right to Life. Who Framed Roger Rabbit? Ivan Boesky. The Dartmouth Review. Wynton Marsalis. AIDS. Animal Rights. Steve Jobs. The Challenger. Such things are the Eighties. To many it is an era of prosperity and a return to traditional values. For many of us it is an era of fear and anxiety, of frustration over the impoverished quality of our public life.

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD invites you to send us observations on the difference between NOW and THEN. We will publish them with your name. As examples, we offer the following:

THEN . . . Our country was engaged in a land war in Southeast Asia. Many of us protested that war. Many of us fought in that war.

NOW . . . We've successfully invaded Grenada. Our rulers broke the law to prosecute a conflict in Nicaragua and we made a hero of the culprit.

THEN . . . Best Local Band: The Ruins with Eddie Sax, Ro Senechal, Russ Myers, Kurt DeGuilio, and Don Rittner on drums.

NOW . . . Best Local Band: Out of Control Rhythm & Blues Band with Rick, Rick, Chris, Ken, Denny, Greg, and Dr. Bill (Benzon) on Trumpet.

THEN . . . Landmark civil rights legislation was passed. We knew, of course, that changing the law is not the same as changing attitudes. Black faces appeared on television only in news reports and in sports.

NOW . . . Much of that legislation has been undermined by conservative leaders. And, life for most black Americans is harder now than it was then. The war on poverty has failed. Bill Cosby has the most popular show on TV.

THEN... The establishment was putting Steve Trimm in jail for protesting the Vietnam War.

NOW.. Oliver North will never go to jail.

THEN... Cherry Coke and French Fries with Gravy were the after school hit at "The Boat" in downtown Troy.

NOW... After school hours are taken up by young people looking to score Crack, provided they can't find it at school.

THEN . . . High Technology was simple, cigarette papers, various kinds of pipes, some simple, some quite elaborate, little slips of blotting paper. A good stereo system. A lava lamp. And the hallucinogens needed to make the rest of it work.

NOW . . . High Technology is forbiddingly complex. Trace amounts of chemicals are embedded in silicon wafers and metallic films are deposited on the wafers to link these impurities into electronic circuits. Put enough of these together and you have a computer.

THEN . . . The Corning-O'Connell machine dominated Albany politics.

NOW . . . The Corning-O'Connell machine dominates Albany politics even without Erastus.

THEN . . . Right was right and Left was left and liberals knew what they stood for, as did conservatives, and radicals, and reactionaries.

NOW . . . "Liberal" has become a curse word and serious conservatives are dogged by Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. Everyone wants to be neo-something.

THEN . . . The Beatles and the Rolling Stones were going strong.

NOW . . . The ghost of Elvis is getting more press than living performers.

THEN . . . The hip shopped at Aunt Fanny's Garage, bought their leather jackets at Rumpelstiltskin, ate at the UN Diner and danced at the Aerodrome.

NOW . . . The informed shop at Computer Professionals, Brookstone, and Ben and Jerry's.

THEN. . . The Outer Limits, Twilight Zone, and Star Trek were the best TV shows.

NOW. . . Miami Vice, David Letterman, and Star Trek are the best TV shows.

THEN . . . There was a path on the RPI campus called the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

NOW . . . The point where that path joined the main campus is dominated by the George Low Center of Industrial Innovation.

There is a difference between being young and being radical.
—Sir Geoffrey Beene, *Memoirs*



Gay Issues Getting Recognition

by Libby Post

Bigotry is the sacred disease.
—Heraclitus

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT HAS become a hot-bed of lesbian and gay political activity. From the growing presence of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby in the halls of the New York State legislature, to the local gay rights ordinance battle, to the embryonic stages of the National Lesbian Conference, the Capital District lesbian and gay community has come into its own.

And as our political activity increases, our issues are becoming mainstays in the more general progressive political agenda. Of course, some of us think our inclusion in that agenda is much too long in coming. But, now that we're in it, our issues are here to stay.

THE LEGISLATIVE battle for the bias-related violence bill will continue into the 1989 session. The bill would increase felony penalties by one degree for all violent acts motivated by bias. Numerous reports (even one by the U.S. Department of Justice) have concluded that lesbians and gays are the number one target of hate crimes. In New York during 1987, 408 hate crimes against our community were committed, including 20 murders and 114 physical assaults. Through the work of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby (NYSLGI) in 1988, a strong bond was formed between the lobby and the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. When former Senate Majority Leader Warren Anderson's staff offered to pass the bill without the inclusion of sexual orientation, Caucus chair, Assemblymember Roger Green, nixed the deal. He was often quoted as saying, "Removing sexual orientation would make the measure a biased bias-violence bill."

Governor Cuomo has also held firm to his commitment to include sexual orientation in the bill as has the Assembly under Mel Miller's leadership and the Senate minority under Manny Ohrenstein.

What 1989 brings to the bias-violence bill is a new Majority Leader, Long Island's Ralph Marino. In preliminary discussions with his staff and in answering legislative questionnaires by Long Island's lesbian and gay organizations, Marino has maintained a positive stance toward the legislation. We're hoping that once all the dust settles from the changes sure to come with Marino's new leadership, a bias-violence bill with the inclusion of sexual orientation will surface. The bill would truly make New York a kinder and gentler place for all lesbians and gays.

In recognition of its work, the Lobby will receive one of Citizen Action's "Progressive Leadership Awards" at its first annual dinner on January 24th. Citizen Action has been a leader in progressive politics for years — another example of lesbians and gay issues being embraced by the community at large.

WHAT 1989 also brings for our state-wide community is the first wide-ranging NYSLGL Legislative Program. While bias violence still heads up the Lobby's work, other issues to be pushed include:

- an omnibus civil rights bill.
- \$139,707,785 request for additional funding for the state's community-based AIDS organizations. In the Capital District, the recipient of this funding would be the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York.
- domestic partnership legislation which would legalize nontraditional families without regard to sexual orientation.
- a healthcare proxy bill which would enable an adult to appoint a health agent (another adult) to make health care decisions in case of incapacity.
- tenant succession legislation which would give a person the right to stay in a rented apartment if that person has lived there for at least six months and her/his name is not on the lease. Tenant succession has become a major issue in urban areas where two gay men may have lived together for quite a while, only one has his name on the lease, and that one has died of AIDS.

On the local level, the fight for lesbian and gay civil rights continues. This time on the electoral level. This fall all of the Albany Common Council will be up for election. According to Jim Perry of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, a number of candidates (lesbian/gay and supportive heterosexuals) will be running to defeat some of the more Neanderthal-type members of the Council. If there's any way for all of us to change city government it's to get involved in these campaigns either by volunteering, or writing out checks, or both. Watch this column for more information on these races as the summer draws near.

Well, the National Lesbian Conference is something new. After the March on Washington it became abundantly clear that lesbians needed to coalesce to form an action agenda and increase our visibility. To that end, a number of lesbians from Albany, New York and Washington, D.C. got together in Washington in late September to put together a general organizing outline for a national conference. The country has been divided into six regions. Each is busily organizing and the first national planning meeting is scheduled for March 4 and 5 in Durham, North Carolina. For more information on the Conference, write to National Lesbian Conference, P.O. Box 3057, Albany, NY 12203.

Libby Post is Co-Chairperson of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby.



Man's World, Woman's Place:

The Right to Choice

by Margo Berch Matzdorf

To do injustice is more disgraceful than to suffer it.
--Plato

I WAS REALLY IRKED to read a recent letter in the newspaper from an Albany woman questioning how Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, and NOW could speak for all women. This wasn't the part of the letter that irritated me, however, since it is an often-heard complaint that the women's movement sometimes neglects the needs of poor women and women of color.

What made me angry was the questions the letterwriter posed of Steinem, Friedan, and NOW. She asks "are they trying to take our individuality away and make us sheep while they force their values and beliefs on others? Are they trying to liberate us from a kind and loving husband and a strong and God-fearing family?" The letterwriter questions Planned Parenthood for telling us that "a baby is not a baby", and asks where these "liberators" are coming from.

I couldn't believe my eyes. Was this woman really complaining that her individuality and freedom was being taken away by the women's movement? Maybe I was reading her letter upside-down.

I sat down to write her a letter. After all, I'm a card-carrying member of NOW, I read *The Feminine Mystique*, and I met Gloria Steinem at the Women's Building fundraiser. I figured I qualified as one of those "liberators" she is so puzzled about.

I was going to write that we are not in the business of forcing our values on anyone and we do not want to take away anyone's individuality. I would have explained how she had it all backwards — that it is we in the pro-choice movement who are fighting to keep the right of a woman to make up her own mind about what she wants to do with her own body. I would have written that if she is opposed to

abortion, then don't have one, but don't force her beliefs on others. I would have said that those who need to have an abortion, for whatever reason, should be able to make their own minds on such a personal issue. I would have emphasized that it was Operation Rescue and the right-to-lifers who were trying to force their values on everyone else; that it wasn't Planned Parenthood that decides what is a baby!

Instead of writing to this woman I decided to write to the pro-choice community — to Betty, Gloria and NOW. To write that it is urgent that we visibly and vocally demonstrate our support for the right of a woman to choice.

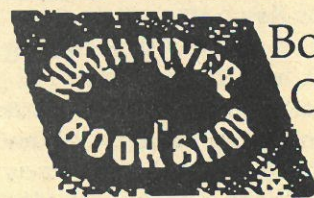
Public opinion polls indicate that the majority of Americans support abortion. However, with the Supreme Court announcing it will review Missouri's abortion law (which declares that human life begins at conception), with George Bush in the Oval Office, with the current conservative Supreme Court, with religious fanatics bombing clinics, and Operation Rescue shutting down Planned Parenthood clinics, we must become loud, visible, and strong. We can no longer afford to take things for granted and remain silent.

"Man's World, Woman's Place" will be a regular column in Hardcopy and will be written by members of the Capital District Women's Political Caucus (CDWPC). These words are our own personal viewpoints and are meant to spark a dialogue. We encourage readers to respond and also to suggest future topics of interest and importance. Margo Berch Matzdorf is Chairperson of the CDWPC, a local chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus.

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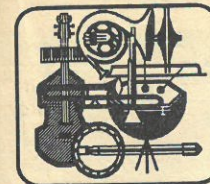


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Touchstones: The Sweet Power of Music

by Bill Benzon

When power becomes gracious and descends into the visible - such descent I call beauty.
--Nietzsche

The Listener

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS TALKED of "hitting the note." Rahsaan Roland Kirk talked of "bright moments." But few talk about it at all. Perhaps because it is very difficult to put into words. Perhaps because such talk seems embarrassing, at any rate, pointless. Mute though such experience is, it is, nonetheless, REAL.

Writing about a performance the late Mabel Mercer gave on her seventy-fifth birthday, the columnist Rex Reed said "when she sang the intelligence and imagination brought tears to the eyes of grown men. . . the sound is that of a lonely cello behind a vocal line drawn with an emotional artistry unmatched by any other singer." Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, Johnny Mathis, Nat King Cole, and Bobby Short are among the singers who learned through listening to Mabel Mercer. Cole Porter and Alec Wilder wrote songs for her.

Several years ago I heard it when Miles Davis played "Time After Time" at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. As the music unfolded there was that hushed, expectant, inflowing silence which betokens an audience deeply enchanted. Tender. Bittersweet. Still. A Miles Davis trademark — but it wasn't there when he played SPAC this past summer. The band was cooking, but the special ballad magic wasn't there.

It was in the Troy Music Hall the last time Freddie Hubbard played there. Freddie was confused, he couldn't even remember the names of his sidemen. The first set was what one routinely expects from a musician of Hubbard's class. Good, but not magic. During the second set he played his signature ballad, "Here's That Rainy Day." The magic happened. Hush. Luminous. Then the band segued into "Straight Life," with its pulsing ostinato bass line and driving latinish rhythm. It was atomic melt-down in Troy. The magic isn't limited to ballads.

The Musician

I have a craftsman's interest in this matter. Whatever, however, it is, it is part of a musician's craft. I play trumpet — mostly Afro-American forms, jazz, rhythm and blues, but I have classical training and occasionally work out on the Hayden and Hummel trumpet concertos.

There ARE moments. About a year-and-a-half ago I was playing a wedding — the sort of gig many musicians take only because it pays relatively well. At the request of the bride and groom we were playing a song I didn't recognize but which I pigeon-holed as a typical early Sixties rock ballad. As I began to play my solo — necessary because we had to do something to stretch this one out — a lump formed in my throat and I played the solo just on the verge of tears.

The emotion came out of nowhere.

But, of course, I could not give-in to the emotion. I can no more play my horn while choked with tears than I can talk while choked with tears. The trick seems to be to ride just at the edge, to feel the emotion (in this case, tenderness), to keep in touch with it, but not to give-in, not to be overwhelmed.

What is even trickier is to get it going in the first place. I know that it is beyond my capacity to will it — I gave up trying years ago. It seems that one attribute of the best performers is that they get it going more often, and ride it longer, than the rest of us. Instrumental (or vocal) technique is useful. So is knowledge of musical structure — rhythm, harmony, melody. Beyond all of that, however, is the feeling. That is what we can't teach.

One can learn to imitate the real thing. And there are times when the imitation is so good that one slips into the real thing. What is important is that one know that the real thing does exist.

The Thinker

Perhaps the most wretchedly difficult distinction to make is that between good and transcendent musical performance. It is easy to distinguish between Baroque and Romantic, swing and bop, classical and jazz, jazz and rock, rock and country, country and bluegrass, and so forth. After all, these different kinds of music have different and easily recognizable conventions. The banjo isn't used in rock, the blues chord progression isn't used in classical, and jazz guitarists don't make much use of the wammy bar. It is also easy enough to tell the difference between a bad or merely mediocre performance and a good one. The bad, or mediocre, performance has little or no energy, and is, in one way or another, sloppy.

But "good" versus "transcendent" — that's tough. In the first place, one has to know that there is such a thing as a transcendent performance, that such a performance is not just very very good, but is qualitatively different, more precise and more powerful, than a good performance. It is easy learn the meaning of words such as "fast," "soft," "high," "blaring," "reedy," and so forth. One need only hear a few examples, and the meaning is obvious. But words such as "transcendent," or "magic," they are more difficult. Good examples are rare. Initially, it helps to have someone point it out to you. But such a person is not always available.

For me, the learning, and becoming sure of what I had learned, took years. I listened to live music and

recorded. I read — critics, musicians, and philosophers. They talked of special moments, special performances. I assumed that what I read applied to the music I had heard and tried to learn precisely what music, what performance, was indicated by those words. Gradually, as the music and the words worked through one another, I gained a reliable sense of how to apply the words to the performance.

As I am most devoted to jazz, most of the transcendent music I have heard is jazz — Dizzy Gillispie, Dexter Gordon, Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Miles Davis, Phil Woods, Lee Morgan, among others. But I heard Willie Nelson do it. And Luciano Pavarotti. I've felt it in concert halls hung with chandeliers and filled with men and women decked out in silk, wool, fur, and diamonds. I've felt it in smoky

basement dives where people wore denim, polyester, and rhinestones. Magic has no respect for the social divisions we inflict on ourselves.

Such artistry is important. It keeps us honest. Much that passes as entertainment or art is, to borrow a word from Karl Marx, opiate. Regardless of its sophistication or superficial fire, it dulls the soul. And it allows us to be satisfied with the walls which divide us from one another. With so much opiate being thrust at us, it is important to savor the magic. To speak of it. To celebrate it.

Bill Benzon plays the trumpet for the Out of Control Rhythm and Blues Band, and the Afro-Eurasian Connection and is editor of HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

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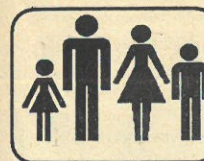
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Landlords, Tenants, and Social Contracts

by Roger Markovich

*'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, Be it ever
so humble, there's no place like home.
—John Howard Payne*

THE LAWS OF OUR society are based on a social contract that maintains a number of balances. Prominent among these balances is that between the needs and rights of the individual, on one side, and the needs and rights of the general community on the other side. Another set of balances involves the needs and rights of various individuals in contrast with each other. This social contract is constantly undergoing gradual reevaluation and adjustment as our living environment changes around us.

The landlord-tenant relationship exists within the scope of this larger social contract. At a time when there is an acute housing shortage, the real estate business is thriving. The failure of landlords to invest their profits in affordable housing indicates a breakdown of the social contract implicit in the general relationship between landlords and tenants. This article is about that breakdown.

LANDLORD-TENANT laws and relationships must be evaluated in terms of a set of balances within the general social contract. Society has created rights and privileges of ownership for property owners to encourage and enable them to develop and maintain property for purposes of sheltering, employing, and feeding people. This is based on the need of landlords to make profit, and includes the ability of landlords to select tenants and evict tenants as they deem appropriate.

However, landlord-tenant laws and relationships have not been constituted as an equitable set of balances. In return for providing housing for tenants, New York State law enables landlords to have quick and easy access to civil courts for evictions based on nonpayment of rent through the means of specially created summary proceedings. Tenants who fail to appear in court are automatically evicted, and evictions are carried out by a marshal or sheriff. Landlords are not required to give leases, and can evict tenants without leases with only a month's notice. Landlords are also not required to have justification for either an eviction or a rent increase, and rent increases can be for any amount.

In return for paying rent tenants are entitled to quiet enjoyment of the apartment that they rent, and in 1975 New York State law established a landmark Warranty of Habitability requiring that landlords must maintain safe and sound housing conditions. Unfortunately, tenants do not have the same easy and quick access to court to enforce this warranty law, nor do they have any basic legal protections against landlords who abuse their rent-setting and eviction privileges.

THIS INEQUITY is very unfair, and derives from the social contract of feudal Europe by way of English common law. Landlords are generally unwilling to relinquish any of

their privileges because they claim these privileges are necessary to protect their investment and stimulate housing development.

However, it is the rent paid by tenants that pays for landlords' investment, plus all of the landlords' maintenance and management costs, plus the landlords' profits. Thus tenants are really the ultimate investors. On one hand, landlords get all of the profit engendered from their tenants' rent payments. On the other hand, tenants do not even get security in their shelter since landlords can simply raise rents as high as they want and evict tenants without any reason.

ABUSE OF these ownership privileges is not new, but locally and throughout the nation the social contract underlying landlord-tenant laws and relationships is being violated in another dimension. A decade or so ago, tenants used to expect to pay one-quarter of their income for shelter. Now they are expected to pay one-third of their income for shelter, and many are forced to pay over one-half of their income for shelter.

Homelessness in the past used to be a phenomenon that only involved older alcoholics on "skid row." Now it is a major problem affecting families and young people who work in low-paying jobs and cannot obtain affordable housing. This homelessness is only the tip of the iceberg of the housing problem. In all of our communities people are doubling up in apartments, or overcrowding smaller apartments, or sliding downward economically because they are paying much more than they can afford.

This national housing crisis — the lack of affordable housing — comes at a time of economic revitalization and business growth, at a time when real estate has become more highly profitable. The Capital District is one of the hottest real estate markets in the Northeast, but there were over 5,000 people reported homeless in the Capital District last year. The vacancy rate in Albany has been less than 2% for the past 5 years — a vacancy rate of 5% or less is considered a housing crisis. Clearly, landlords, and the real estate industry in general, have failed to re-invest the profits from their enterprises into producing more affordable housing.

Their failure to do so is a major violation of the social contract since the profits come from rents paid by tenants. This is a gross abuse of the privileges exercised by absentee landlords in this unequal set of balances between landlords and tenants. Thus, society needs to redefine this part of the social contract involving landlord-tenant laws and relationships to more vigorously apply the principles of stewardship. This

means curtailing landlord abuses of their rights and privileges and channeling real estate profits into producing desperately needed affordable housing.

EFFORTS TO do this have already been initiated. There is a bill in the state legislature that would prohibit evictions without "good cause." Simply put, this would require that landlords have a legitimate reason, or good cause, in order to evict tenants, and it would give tenants a measure of security in their housing. While this would not equalize fully the landlord-tenant relationship, it would protect tenants from arbitrary and unfair evictions.

In terms of producing more affordable housing there are a number of proposals for "linkage" policies. Linkage refers to state and local regulations that would require developers of other types of real estate, such as commercial or luxury housing, to also develop or contribute financially to low and moderate income housing development. Both good cause for eviction legislation and linkage policies are needed to refine the social contract regarding the provision and maintenance of housing in our society.

Roger Markovich is the director of United Tenants of Albany.

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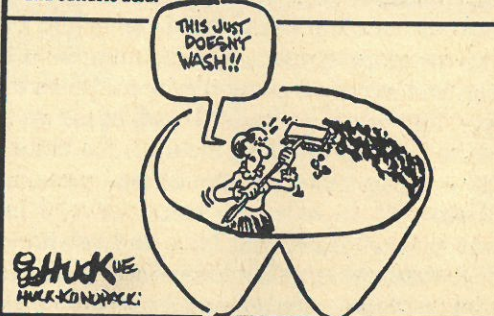
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WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 21 Revolt of the Laundresses

Production of detachable collars and cuffs and shirts used to be big business in Troy, N.Y.; washing, starching and ironing the collars was an important part of the process. Several hundred Troy women worked 12 to 14 hours a day, doing this back-breaking work in 100-degree heat, in air full of chloride and sulfuric acid.



In the summer of 1865, the Troy laundresses decided they had enough when the bosses introduced new starching machines. The machines were too hot to handle and cut prices for starching almost in half. Under the leadership of the fiery Kate Mullaney, the laundresses organized the Troy Collar Laundry Union.



The Troy Collar Laundry Union succeeded in raising the wages of the laundresses from \$2-\$3 a week to \$8-\$14! Kate Mullaney became one of the most important women labor leaders of the Nineteenth century.

Meanwhile, in Jackson, Mississippi, a June 18, 1866 "Petition of Colored Washerwomen" startled the white establishment. The petition announced the intention of black laundry women to charge a uniform rate for their labor. Says historian Philip Foner, this was the "first known collective action of free black workingwomen in American history."



The Veteran's Page

by Dave Millard

Mighty, mighty, great in war, So was I honored; Now behold me old and wretched!
—Oglala, Sioux

Hardcopy's column on veteran's issues will be written by David Millard, director of Rensselaer County's Veteran's Service Agency (VSA). We asked Dave to introduce himself to you:

I AM a lifelong resident of Rensselaer County and live in Schaghticoke with my wife and son. Prior to assuming my position at VSA I ran my own business, T.C. Gunsmithing, for some 6 years. I am a disabled Viet-Nam veteran and was decorated during my tour of duty in Viet-Nam. I was wounded in the Central Highlands in the 1972 Spring offensive in which much of the Highlands were overrun by the enemy.

The war took a devastating toll on me, not only physically but emotionally. Suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I eventually slipped into a deadly spiral of Alcohol and substance abuse. The progression of my alcoholism was ended in October 1985 when I sought help after a failed suicide attempt. I spent the following month reinforcing my sobriety and finally coming to terms with my "Viet-Nam Experience" at the Albany Vet Center. During these months I became actively engaged in becoming an advocate for other veterans who were homeless, substance abusers, incarcerated, or just needed someone to listen or help out. It was this record of sincere dedicated advocacy coupled with my struggle for inner peace that caught John Buono's attention and led to my appointment in the Spring to 87 to the top slot at VSA.

Rensselaer County Veteran's Service Agency: Serving Those Who Served

Most folks don't give much thought to the veterans of our country's armed forces except on Memorial, Armed Forces, or Veteran's Days. Even these days are relegated to mass commercialization so that "Veteran's Day" has come to mean furniture, underwear, and white sales, or a day off work. We've forgotten how to honor our veterans. Although this fact is sad, it is reality. Every veteran knows it.

On the other side of the spectrum, there is a place in Rensselaer country where Veterans are remembered and celebrated each day. I am referring to the County's Veterans Service Agency. VSA is that portion of the Rensselaer County government charged with serving and promoting all of the veterans of the county, individually, and as a group.

Rensselaer County's VSA has undergone many changes in the last year-and-a-half to come in line with new advocacy programs. The agency still provides the services it has rendered for many years: counseling and filing for VA benefits, paralegal assistance in VA matters and Appeals,

assistance with veteran's property tax exemptions, and documentation research, etc. But the advocacy programs now provided with these basic services have given VSA a personal touch that is unprecedented in VSA's history and some say in anywhere in the state.

Still, simple things mean a lot. Years ago our county's veterans were able to get "Grave Flags" from VSA for putting on veteran's graves on Memorial Day. For some reason this was stopped. This issue, along with the need for a "Veteran's Van" to transport Veterans to and from the V.A. Hospital in Rensselaer county, seemed to be at the top the veterans' wish list a year-and-a-half ago. Those were the first needs I addressed when I became director of the VSA.

For the first time in years, veterans graves were decorated on Memorial Day 1988 with flags donated by the taxpayers of the county, a real tribute from our citizens to those who have served and passed on. In the same light, the county VSA now runs a sixteen passenger van throughout the county which will soon be equipped with a wheelchair lift, to provide access to the VA hospital and other destinations for our county's veterans.

On 20 December of 1988 Rensselaer County and VSA announced its most dynamic advocacy program to date, the Rensselaer County Agent Orange Screening/Research Program. This program is for Viet-Nam veterans of Rensselaer County who feel that they may have been exposed to the herbicide while in Viet-Nam. These veterans can have tissue samples examined for the Dioxin poison that is a part of Agent Orange. We are proud to say that Rensselaer County is the first governmental agency in the United States to undertake this type of a program for the sole benefit of individual veterans, which is in addition to the research it will help to provide.

In future issues of *Hardcopy* a regular Veteran's column will be featured which will discuss veteran's issues and programs for area veterans. If you are in need of help or assistance or would like to know more about Rensselaer County's VSA give them a call at 270-2760.

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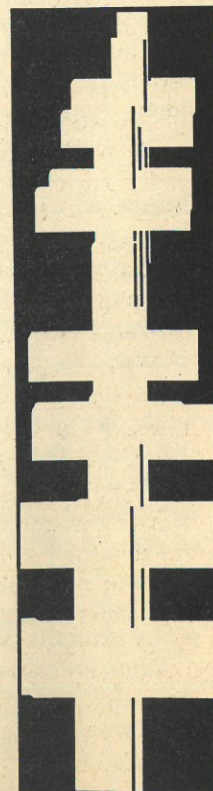
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CAPITAL DISTRICT VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Honor
the
Warrior,
Not the
War

For those who died there, the Vietnam war is over. Many who served, however, still live that war, in their bodies, their minds, and their hearts. For them, the combat has stopped, but the war continues. So it is for the nation. Only recently have we begun to say what we have feared to say, and feel, for so long. It is time to heal. And it is in the spirit of healing that *Hardcopy* publishes a list of those from the Capital District who died in Vietnam.

Alan Donnelly Gloversville	Donald Sheehy Albany	James Bink Selkirk	Lester Ropeter Fort Plain	Richard Mosley Albany	Vincent Bourdeau Hudson Falls
Albert Ayres Glens Falls	Donald Yates Round Lake	James Closson Saratoga	Lewis Ouelette Albany	Richard Rocco Amsterdam	Vincent Musco Schenectady
Albert Darling Craryville	Donato Simiele Amsterdam	James Collier Fort Edward	Loren Armlin Central Bridge	Richard Rockenstyre Albany	Vincent Rossi Gloversville
Albert Gates East Greenbush	Douglas Hallock Schenectady	James Masotti Troy	Louis Daigle Waterford	Richard Starkey Schenectady	Walter Schmidt Nassau
Anjelmo Aprilliano Valley Falls	Edmund Smith Glens Falls	James McNeilly Scotia	Marl McCutchen Green Island	Richard Watts Schenectady	Wayne Smith Lake Pleasant
Anthony Steen Troy	Edward Finlay Albany	James Picarazzi Selkirk	Marlin Siegwalt Schenectady	Richard Whalen Saratoga	Willard Durham Greenfield
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Arnold Hull Oak Hill	Edward Malewicz Scotia	James Van Tassel Glens Falls	Martin Wright Schoharie	Robert Barry Glens Falls	William Bagshaw Catskill
Arthur Comstock West Lebanon	Edward Steffek Amsterdam	Jared Frisbie Selkirk	Matthew Baurle Gloversville	Robert Coons Albany	William Brown Hudson
Arthur Koneval Rensselaer	Eric Evans Rexford	Jerry Sweet Lebanon Springs	Michael Belamoti Glens Falls	Robert Cragin Schenectady	William Ditoro Albany
Arthur McNally Albany	Ernest Lasher Germantown	John Bechard Stillwater	Michael Carr Hudson Falls	Robert Cummings Rensselaer	William Dzierzak Waterford
Ashton Loney Albany	Eugene Curless Medusa	John Cameron Coxsackie	Michael DiMarco Albany	Robert Dwyer Troy	William Hammer Nassau
Bernard Wait Troy	Eugene Sheridan Petersburg	John Dedek Oak Hill	Michael Klotz Hudson	Robert Felter Troy	William McCarty Fort Edward
Bertram Deso Albany	Felix Sesario Amsterdam	John Dilallo Schenectady	Michael Layman Schenectady	Robert Herbert Watervliet	William McNulty Green Island
Bruce Carey Troy	Floyd Andrus Greenfield Center	John Fiffe Albany	Michael Lynch Amsterdam	Robert Jamro Scotia	William Prothero Schenectady
Bruce Colson Corinth	Floyd Houghtaling Canajoharie	John Gladney Albany	Michael Nolan Schuylerville	Robert Razzano Cohoes	William Sebast Albany
Carl Merchant Corinth	Floyd Pohl Stillwater	John Gulliver Schenectady	Michael O'Conner Troy	Robert Schampier Alcove	William Seeley Stratford
Carlton McCagg Chatham	Forrest Ward Troy	John Hines Cohoes	Ned Sowle Galway	Robert Smith Albany	William Shorts Rensselaer
Charles Chandler Albany	Frank Fratellenico Chatham	John Hogan Fort Plain	Nelson Fournier Schenectady	Robert Smith Albany	William VanAntwerp Albany
Charles Howe Mechanicville	Frank Hutchins Cohoes	John Landor Cohoes	Nelson Swanker Fort Johnson	Robert Stec Fonda	William Zemanich Troy
Charles Majer Troy	Frank Meleca Albany	John McElroy Schenectady	Norm Clearwater Catskill	Robert Telfer Fonda	William Duffner Cohoes
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Christopher Brow Albany	Gene Colvin Fort Edward	John Stegeland Canajoharie	Owen Goodsell Fort Edward	Roderick Breault Hudson Falls	
Christopher Sigman Schoharie	George Gunn Schenectady	John Storelli Watervliet	Paul Baker Troy	Roger Fulkerson Troy	
Clark Barlow South Glens Falls	George Quamo Averill Park	John Vennard Albany	Paul Grasso Hudson	Roger Mazal Valatie	
Claude Denardis Schenectady	Gerald Hammond Glens Falls	John Wyszominski Catskill	Peter Butler Glens Falls	Ronald Fero Scotia	
Clement Lajeunesse Schenectady	Gerald Slingerland Albany	Joseph Coletti Glens Falls	Peter Fedasch Amsterdam	Ronald Hock New	
Clifford LaBombard Albany	Glen Brust Troy	Joseph D'Angelico Fort Edward	Peter Fonda Saratoga	Ronald Kissinger Baltimore	
Cornell Petteyes Wynantskill	Glen Gilbert Voorheesville	Joseph Mears Middleburg	Peter Guenette Troy	Ronald Rockefeller Broadalbin	
Dale Hill West Fort Ann	Greg Bauer Central Bridge	Joseph Milos Troy	Rac Bailey Clemons	Ronald Rockefeller Tivoli	
Daniel Gatto Amsterdam	Harold Lonergan Albany	Joseph Murphy Glens Falls	Ralph DiPace Albany	Roy Corlew Granville	
Daniel Goodin Canaan	Harold Patenaude Mechanicville	Joseph Ott Albany	Ralph Dupont Albany	Samuel Williams Albany	
Daniel Nye Albany	Harold Simons Gloversville	Joseph Smith Ballston Lake	Ralph Lund Johnstown	Stanley Barrett Waterford	
David Crocker Schenectady	Harold Slingerland Ravena	Keith Knott Albany	Raymond Brodie Middleburg	Stanley Brown Albany	
David Decker Hudson	Harry Mosher Northville	Kenneth Fedder Schenectady	Raymond Hyson Schenectady	Steve Barrett Troy	
David Skumurski Schenectady	Heinz Roesch Troy	Kenneth Oliver Rensselaer	Raymond Ranellucci Rensselaer	Thomas Bergin Albany	
David Vollmer Scotia	Henry Coons Germantown	Kevin McArdle Albany	Raymond Tymeson Troy	Thomas Falk Troy	
Dean Allen Delmar	Henry Klein Delman	Lanny Ledoucur Rensselaer	Richard Budka Amsterdam	Thomas Jourdanais Waterford	
Dennis Higgins Fort Edward	Herbert Gott Burnt Hills	Larry Hoyt Cobleskill	Richard Gates Johnstown	Thomas Ryan Albany	
Dennis Hugenboom Schoharie	Herbert Tuttle Schenectady	Lawrence Celmer Amsterdam	Richard Gillingham Valatie	Timothy Frazier Cohoes	
Denton Crocker Saratoga	Howard Beagle Glens Falls	Leonard Allen Fort Ann	Richard Horse Coeymans Hollow	Timothy Hammond Cropseyville	
Donald Egan Troy	James Angelides Menands	Leonard Lepore Northville	Richard Leahy Albany	Tunis Rappleyea Westkill	
Donald Kearney Schenectady	James Bates Glens Falls	Leonard Niski Amsterdam	Richard Mancini Amsterdam	Vernon Hovey Schenectady	



Famous Impressions

by Bill Benzon and Don Rittner*

Lips, however rosy, must be fed.
—Anon.

SOME ESTABLISHMENTS DO WHAT the sign says, and no more. The Filling Station pumps gas. The Jewelry Store adorns fingers, wrists, necks, and ears. The Motel puts a bed under your body.

The Famous Lunch on Congress Street in downtown Troy is not one of these places. It *can* do what the sign says — provide a famous lunch. But it is more than that, a lunch counter. It's a place where people hang-out. Their sons and daughters hang-out there as well. The Famous Lunch is history, history you can see, touch, smell, and eat.

The hot-dogs — miniature ones — have natural casings, no plastic. Most eat them with the works, chopped raw onion, mustard, and chili sauce. Not subtle. But delicious. And convenient. Sometimes it's four dogs and fries (the potatoes are hand cut), other times, three, five, or six, more or less depending on your appetite — an RPI fraternity, the Rensselaer Society of Engineers, ordered 658 dogs last November 18th. At 45 cents per dog it's a bargain. For \$1.85 you can get the breakfast special, two eggs, toast, home fries, and coffee. The most expensive item on the menu (which is posted on the wall above the counter) is wheat cakes and sausage for \$2.55.

IN AUGUST of 1958 Corporal Gordon Gundrum, USMC, was stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. When asked what he missed most about the States he replied, "The hot dogs from the Famous Lunch." Thereby hangs, as the phrase goes, a tale.

It's not difficult to imagine what happened next. An order was placed for two dozen dogs with the works, the dogs were placed on a KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines jet, flown to Moscow, where they showed up at 11PM Tuesday August 26th in time for lunch. The dogs were good, the belches (we imagine) better, and the story made the major wire services. The Famous had become, for a moment, famous.

Now the fame is gone, but the story remains. John Semon started the business in 1932. His sons George, James, and Michael entered the business after World War II and the place was remodeled in 1947. In 1955 Steve and Nick immigrated to the United States from Greece and began working at the Famous Lunch; John Semon was their uncle, making his sons their cousins. Steve and Nick bought the place in 1965. Since Nick died a few years ago the Famous has been run by Steve and by Nick's wife, Kay.

Steve is a natural philosopher — he was, after all, born in the home of Western philosophy. He has an opinion on everything. "I mix hot dogs and politics. Going into the voting booth and pulling the lever, that's the holiest thing you can do." Kay greets you with a smile. When you leave, and ask her "What do I owe you?" her reply is, invariably,

"Your life."

WHEN THE Famous first opened, trolley cars moved over cobblestone streets along Congress Street, then a major east-west corridor. Next door was the shop where Quinn brothers hand-rolled their Q & Q cigars. During the 50's, this part of Congress was a buzz of activity. Joe's newsroom, Miami Lunch, Senate Tavern, Manory's and the Atlantic Fish Market were popular stops. It was a time when Troy, and the Famous, were hopping.

The Famous looks much as it did when it was remodeled in 1947. White and green tiled floor, mahogany-stained booths and wainscoting, chrome-plated swivel stools at the counter, gray porcelain steel walls and ceiling — the same material they used to use for the interior of subway cars in New York City. "Express lane" is clearly marked on the front door. Of course, it is the only entrance in or out and the running joke is you can be in and out with your order in two minutes. At the front, the grill faces the

"I mix hot dogs and politics. Going into the voting booth and pulling the lever, that's the holiest thing you can do."

street so passersby can see the hot dogs being prepared, row by row, a pot of sauce, dish of chopped onion, sliced roles, orders stacked up "to go." At the rear, to the left, is an old 1940's wooden phone booth; to the right, arcade games (the electronic variety has replaced the old pinball machines), and a jukebox with old Bobby Darin sides. On the wall to the left hang a set of toy pistols, and their holster. They belonged to "The Sheriff," a man with a child's mind who used to hang-out at The Famous. To many more, the Famous is a bit of security. Where else can you find a eating place that has remained all these years basically unchanged. The people who eat here know these things, but think nothing of them. They are, after all, the substance of life. One needn't think about such basic matters, not, at any rate, until they pass into history.

Hardcopy For The Common Good invites readers to submit pieces about eating places they know well and love. If you aren't much of a writer, don't worry. We'll find a writer to help you.

*This review is totally biased. Don has been eating here for 32 years! When you visit, ask for the HARDCOPY Special!



Roll On, Rahsaan

By Bill Benzon

THE BLACK AMERICAN MUSICAL tradition is the most vital and fecund source of music in this century. Few musicians were more aware of this than the late Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Born in Ohio in 1936, Rahsaan Roland Kirk came of artistic age at a time when jazz musicians had become accustomed to deliberately seeking new artistic territory.

In the early Sixties he was one of the first to insist that jazz, which he called Black Classical Music, could advance only by considering all of popular music and all of its own past as its legitimate territory. Thus a typical performance would include New Orleans jazz, swing, bebop, the avant-garde of John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman, with side trips into Rodgers and Hammerstein, the Supremes, Burt Bacharach, the Beatles, and Stevie Wonder, to name only a few.

Between these musical selections Rahsaan would improvise raps elucidating the history and current situation of the music. Sometimes he spoke in verse, sometimes in the cadences of a skilled black preacher, sometimes with a sense of comic timing passed down from minstrel days. And always, always, he spoke from a sensitive awareness of audience response.

In 1975 Rahsaan suffered a stroke which left his right hand paralyzed. Undeterred, Rahsaan had his horns modified so he could play them with one hand. Another stroke killed Rahsaan in 1977. But his music, his spirit, and his words still live.

The follow raps were delivered in performance at the Keystone Korner in San Francisco in 1973. The performance

was recorded on Rahsaan's *Bright Moments* album for Atlantic Records.

Clickety clack

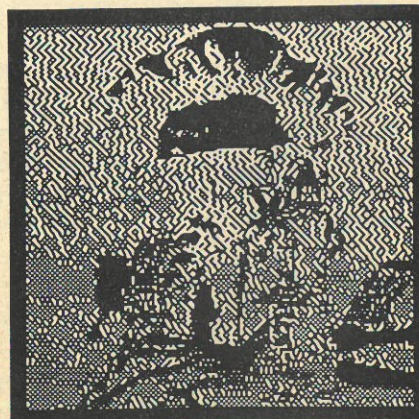
[Note: As Rahsaan raps, there are train sounds in the background. The words "clickety clack" are, of course, spoken.]

Clickety clack . . . clickety clack
Bring that man's baby back.
Clickety clack . . . clickety clack! . . .
I want my spirit back.
CLICKETY CLACK!

Bubble music being seen and heard on Saturday night blinding the eyes of ones that's supposed to see!
Bubble music, being played and showed, throughout America.

Clickety clack . . . clickety clack . . .
Somebody's mind's got off the goddamn track!
Clickety clack . . . clickety clack . . .
Won't somebody bring the Spirit back?
You don't know about John Coltrane
And the beautiful ballad he wrote called "After the Rain."

You don't know about Lady Day and all the dues that she had to pay.



*The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils,
The motions of his spirit are dull as night.*
--Shakespeare

The Beatles come into the country, they take all the bread.
While police hitt'n' black and white folks upside the head.

Tom Jones and Humpading got everybody uptight.
They make people that can sing wan'ta get out and fight.
Clickety clack . . . clickety clack . . .
What is this madness that Nixon put upon us?
Clickety clack . . . clickety clack . . .
Won't someone bring the spirit back?
Who will it be? Who will it be?
It certainly won't be someone that says that they're free.
Clickety clack . . . clickety clack

Bright Moments

[Note: Audience response is indicated in italics.]

Bright moments.

Bright moments.

Bright moments is like eat'n your last pork chop in London England, because you ain't gonna git no mo . . . cooked from home.

Bright moments!

Bright moments is like bein' with your favorite love'n you all share'n' the same ice cream dish. And you git mad when she gets the last drop. And you have to take her in your arms and get it the other way.

Bright moments!

That's too heavy for most of you all 'cause most of you all don't know nothin' 'bout that kind of love. The love you all have been taught about is the love in those magazines. And I am fortunate that I didn't have to look in magazines.*

Bright moments!

Bright moments is like see'n' something that you ain't ever seen in you life and you don't have to see it but you know how it looks. (*Yeah, clapping, woo hooo, etc. bright moments*)

Bright moments is like hearn' some music that ain't nobody else heard, and if they heard it they wouldn't even recognize that they heard it 'cause they been hearnin' it all their life but they nussed on it so, when you hear it and you start poppin' your feet and jumpin' up and down they get mad because you're enjoying yourself but those are bright moments that they can't share with you 'cause they don't even know how to go about listening to what you're listening to and when you try to tell them about it they don't know a damn thing about what your're talking about!

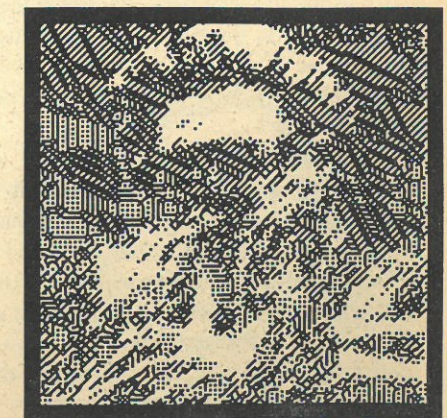
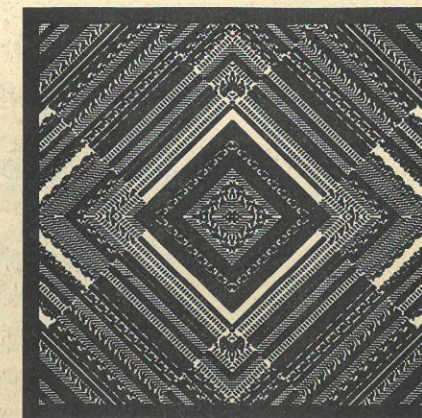
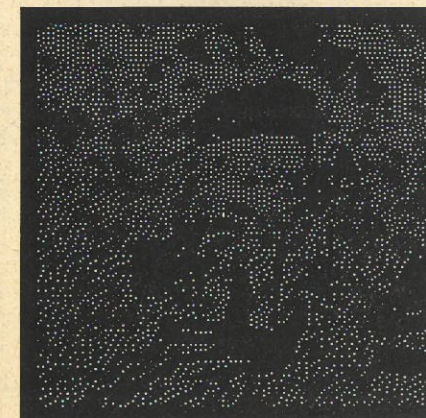
(*Whistles, clapping, exclamations, and so forth*)

Is there any other bright moments before we proceed on?

Testify! Testify! Bright moments, bright moments.

Bright moments is being at the Keystone Korner — beautiful — listening to geniuses like Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Beautiful. Bright moments. Bright moments is like hav'n brothers 'n sisters and sisterettes and brotheretts like you all here listenin' to us. (Applause, shouting)

*Rahsaan doesn't have to look because he's blind.





Labor Activity in the Capital District

by Art Fleischner

*Labor conquers everything.
--Virgil*

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS ALIVE and well in New York's capital district. The Albany, Troy, and Schenectady labor councils meet monthly and help to co-ordinate activities throughout the area. There are 30 other labor councils in the state, representing 2.3 million workers. Recently the affiliation of the Teamsters into the National AFL-CIO and CSEA (Civil Service Employees Union) into the AFL-CIO's New York Federation have strengthened labor's voice.

There are over 100,000 union members in the Capital area representing the public and private sectors. The State AFL-CIO ties them all together. There is also a Building Trades Council that meets weekly to share concerns in their field.

SINCE MANY people primarily think "strike!" when they think of unions, it is important to recognize that unions do many things besides calling strikes. For example, during the legislative session, lobbyists representing various unions meet weekly to co-ordinate activities on the issues that affect their members. Many union members work year-round on the United Way Campaign. In 1988 Jim Devine of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) went to Ireland to help establish a United Way campaign there. Other union representatives and members meet regularly with the religious community as part of The Capital District Labor-Religion Coalition.

Local union leaders are regularly involved in professional education at Cornell's International Labor Relations School (ILR) where they take courses on topics such as contract negotiations, current labor problems, labor history, worker's compensation, and so forth. The ILR also hosts monthly seminars for union leaders. At a recent seminar Frank Barbaro (D), Chairman of Labor Committee of the New York State Assembly, briefed union reps on labor-related legislation currently pending before the Assembly.

THERE IS also a labor committee on Safety and Health (COSH) that has been re-established in the Capital District. In addition, labor councils in the area have been working with the Community Health Plan (CHP) to establish a clinic to test the health of people who think they may have contracted a work-related illness. Individuals, unions, or companies may call 783-1518 if they would like more information.

Presently, there is an advanced employee assistance program (EAP) at the Troy Area Labor Temple every Tuesday night. The purpose of the program is to train union

personnel on how to recognize when their fellow workers have drug and alcohol problems and to then guide them to professional help. Other labor councils and individual unions have similar programs.

THE SOLIDARITY Committee of the Capital District, a committee of the Albany Federation of Labor, meets monthly to co-ordinate support for different unions. In December the committee went to Gouverneur, New York to deliver clothes, food, and toys to the workers of Local 3701 of the United Steel Workers of America. They have been on strike for over 3 years and appreciate the support of fellow union members. This year's trip was organized by Keith Eveleth, a steel worker at Portec, in Troy, and a member of Local 8652 of the United Steel Workers of America.

In 1989 the Labor Day Parade will be held in Troy as part of the City's Bicentennial celebration. A labor weekend is being planned for October 21 and 22 with a seminar, book release, photo exhibit, and audio-visual display at Russell Sage College.

Art Fleischner is and organize for AFSCME. This is the first installment of a monthly column on working people, their struggles, and the labor movement in the Capital District. Comments, questions, and suggestions are welcome and may be sent to HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

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Through the Looking Glass: Dear America

by Geoff Parsons

*The monkey doesn't see the hump on his own forehead.
--Sesuto proverb*

[Note: Several months ago, before the presidential election, when *Hardcopy* was little more than a gleam in the editorial eye, we put the word out on the wire and got the following comments from Geoff Parsons who lives in Southampton, England. Of course, one need not live in England to get a letter published in *Hardcopy* — our standards are high, but not perverse. We invite all readers to write — comment, explain, excoriate, complain, congratulate, elaborate, whatever suits your fancy. Of course we reserve the right to edit all correspondence.]

Dear America:

THERE ARE TWO OF YOU. America as it is, and America as it appears to others. Now that I am once more resident back in England I begin to see you as do all my countrymen who read the papers or listen to the news or watch TV.

We get an impression of The States which is distorted, though probably not deliberately so. The only "news" that we see and hear is that which the pundits deem "newsworthy." However, "newsworthy" seems to mean "shocking, frightening or unusual," a definition which is unusual, if not shocking or frightening. Where the news is about one's own country such bias can easily be corrected by one's personal experiences. However, when the only back-up knowledge that is available is the dream world of television programmes like "Miami Vice" and "Dallas," it is very difficult for the man in the street to understand just how distorted the "news" is.

The drought which I know must be affecting many of you stateside has had relatively little coverage here. Each time we see a news item on the television we get the same picture: a parched landscape with a rusting 1928 tractor in the foreground. Not only is there a shortage of water but, it would seem, your farmers have some pretty old farm machinery. Very picturesque.

SPEAKING OF droughts, it would seem that the "dirty tricks brigade" is at work in your election, what with all the attempts to dredge up all the filth that can be found about all the candidates. Why would a country that advertises promiscuity in all their films worry about a guy having a mistress, or even a weekend in a house with a couple of other guys and a well-known lady who gives out sexual favours in exchange for political advantages? Would any country be better served by a ruling group of celibate monks? We tend to sit here on this side of the Atlantic and smile while just the same things happen to our society.

From what we read here it would seem that when a prospective candidate in America is found to be having an affair with a model he is forced to retire. In Europe such a situation is greeted with circumspect admiration — at least the candidate is a natural man.

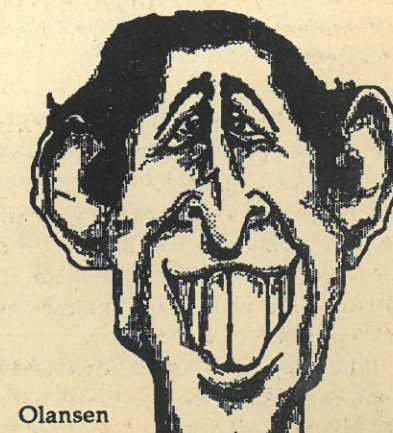
The Quale saga has spawned a number of articles here, including one in a color supplement to the prestigious *Sunday Observer*. This article was entitled "Who went where, and why." The Vietnam-era activities of such luminaries as Muhammad Ali, Pat Buchanan, Joe Biden, Richard Dreyfuss, Sylvester Stallone, Tom Selleck, Bruce Springsteen, and many more, were listed. It was a great pleasure to see that Rambo spent his draft time working at a girl's finishing school in Switzerland as an athletics coach.

IT IS a pity of course that the average person in the street has no way of judging a country except by the media. I spend a lot of my time telling people that I never saw a policeman draw his gun all the time I was in The States and that the television shows do not indicate the real way of life. [Note: *The British police do not carry guns. Ed.*] Such explanations are, I am afraid, a waste of time.

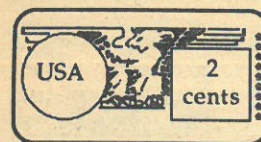
The average person thinks of The States as a country where, if you're not liked, you get shot and, if you are a weirdo, you become famous — like the "surfing dog" which has been on all the news programmes this past week. As I recall, he even managed to bring his master along. Smart dog.

Finally, we were universally pleased when, at last, the space shuttle took off without any accidents. The launch was broadcast live here and preceded by an hour's documentary. The technical ability and the bravery involved aroused nothing but admiration in us.

Regards,
Geoff Parsons,
Southampton,
England



Olsen



The Back Page

Lead Poisoning: An Elemental Problem

by Don Rittner

The pressure of public opinion, is like the pressure of the atmosphere; you can't see it - but, all the same, it is sixteen pounds to the square inch.
--J.R. Lowell

LEAD IS A PECULIAR metal. It is one of the least abundant metals in the earth's crust and yet one of the oldest metals known to humanity. Most people are familiar with its positive uses. Lead shields us from dangerous radiation when we are x-rayed or work in a nuclear power station. It gives gasoline the "no-knock" quality. Mixed with other metals, it forms alloys that melt quickly in fire sprinklers and other safety devices in life-saving situations. Lead is used in building construction, industrial uses, and even in pharmaceuticals.

On the other hand, lead, in the form of bullets, has snuffed out the lives of leaders like John and Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, folk heroes like John Lennon, and hundreds upon thousands of people remembered only by their friends and relatives. Lead has even been blamed for the fall of the Roman Empire, for much of Rome's water supply flowed through lead pipes.

History may repeat itself.

THE CENTER for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta has estimated that 4% of the children in the United States are exposed to dangerous quantities of lead. The CDC estimates there are more U.S. Children suffering from lead poisoning than from all communicable childhood diseases combined.

Where are they being exposed to this deadly problem? At home. Lead poisoning from ingestion of flaking lead-based paint (and water from lead-soldered drinking pipes) is a widespread problem throughout both urban and rural America. Lead poisoning strikes children mostly between the ages of nine months to five years. These young children are particularly susceptible because their growing bodies absorb and retain a relatively high amount of lead in proportion to their body weight.

The effects of lead poisoning range from attention disorders to learning disabilities and other intellectual deficits. This damage is irreversible. Severe lead poisoning leads to death.

The toxic effects of lead have been known for years. Ben Franklin wrote about it in 1786. As early as 1960, lead in paint was voluntarily reduced by paint manufacturers. In 1977, lead paint was banned by federal law. Since then children have been paying for the decades of previously applied lead-based paint. Flaking chips and dust are easily absorbed into the skin, or ingested by way of the fingers to the mouth. But studies have shown that even low levels of lead in the mother's body may have significant toxic effects on the development of the unborn fetus.

THE REAL crime is that none of this has to happen. Not one child need go through this traumatic experience. A simple blood test can reveal lead poisoning, and some

knowledge of one's living conditions can help prevent it from occurring in the first place. Early detection is necessary since symptoms of lead poisoning can be attributable to almost any other childhood disorder: irritability, lack of appetite, sleeplessness, and so forth.

In the 70's, some New York State cities initiated lead prevention programs. For a short time, Rensselaer County had a screening program. From 1974-78, 986 children were found to have had elevated lead levels and 138 were lead poisoned. Lack of money forced Rensselaer County to abandon the program. In 1986 ten participating counties in New York State (only Albany locally) tested 264,000 children. 3,000 were diagnosed and treated for lead poisoning and more than 13,000 were referred for possible iron deficiency anemia caused by it. Albany County alone diagnosed 67 lead poisonings. New prevention programs are only now getting underway in Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and surrounding counties.

Lead poisoning is found predominantly in areas of dilapidated housing and so it is no surprise that the majority of children affected come from low and moderate income families. It is estimated that the interior of some 27 million households in this country are contaminated by lead paint. If you live in a house built before 1960, you may be exposed.

The problem can be easily remedied. A fresh coat of paint, wallpaper, or paneling are usually inexpensive ways of combating the problem. Unfortunately, when a landlord is confronted with this condition, he or she often evicts the family rather than fixing the apartment. Thus the problem can be repeated when new, unknowing, tenants move in.

LET'S BRING this problem closer to home. A couple of months ago I produced a short video on lead poisoning in children. The story centered around the Ashley family of Troy. Two-year-old Denise (now 10) had a severe case of lead poisoning. Blood lead levels of 25 or over are considered serious. Denise's lead level was 65. She spent two weeks in the hospital going through a painful series of injections to rid her body of the toxic.

Denise was lucky. St. Mary's Hospital had a screening program for children and a simple blood test revealed her problem before it was too late. Not all hospitals have this screening process - they should.

It was not enough, however, simply to treat Denise. Obviously Mrs. Ashley's other two children had also ingested lead, though they were not affected as much as Denise. It was clear that the family had to move out of

the apartment. The Department of Social Services would not let Denise move back into a lead-filled apartment. While they could not force the landlord to clean it up, they could prevent Denise from returning.

In this case the landlord added insult to injury by blaming Mrs. Ashley for her children's condition. He told her she was an unfit mother. Mrs. Ashley refused to accept the blame. She sued the landlord for poisoning her child. She won, and Denise has a sizable bank account for her future. No one knows if Denise is fully recovered, or what long-term effects she may suffer. But landlords should be advised: If you can't clean up your act, you may pay dearly for it.

WHAT IS needed is a universal, mandated lead screening for every child between nine months and six years old. For

several years Assemblyman Arthur Eve has proposed legislation for a universal screening program in New York State. In 1987, Senator Olga Mendez followed with bill S-1504. Also, City code enforcement bureau's should make lead paint removal part of their code enforcement practice. The City of Troy is presently considering an ordinance to clean up any housing used for rental income if it is lead filled.

As long as this problem persists, our children will suffer. Of the many problems which face us, this one has a straight-forward and relatively cheap solution. If we don't have the compassion and will to solve this one, how can we possibly deal with far more difficult problems?

Don Rittner is Executive Director of the Troy Neighborhood Council and is Editor-In-Chief of HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

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*The man who never alters his opinion is
like standing water, and breeds reptiles of
the mind.*
--Blake

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Woman's History Month Celebration

The Capital District Woman's Political Caucus (CDWPC) and the Women's building invites you to celebrate Women's History Month at the Women's building, 79 Central Ave., Albany on Wednesday, March 22nd at 7 PM.

At 7:15 there will be a film showing of "How We Got the Vote Video." Narrated by Jean Stapleton, this lively video uses historical footage, cartoons, music and reminiscences to show how women fought and won the right to vote. The film focuses on the period between 1917 and 1920.

After the film is shown, area women's organizations and service providers will present their own herstories. These herstories will then be given to the Women's Building as part of their archives of the women's movement in Albany.

There is no charge for the program, and refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited. For further info, call 283-8416, or write to: DCWPC, PO Box 7157, Albany, NY 12224.

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Friday, March 17, 8PM. Albany Symphony Orchestra. Music of Barber, Antill, Mahler. Marilyn Richardson, Soprano, Geoffrey Simon, Conductor.

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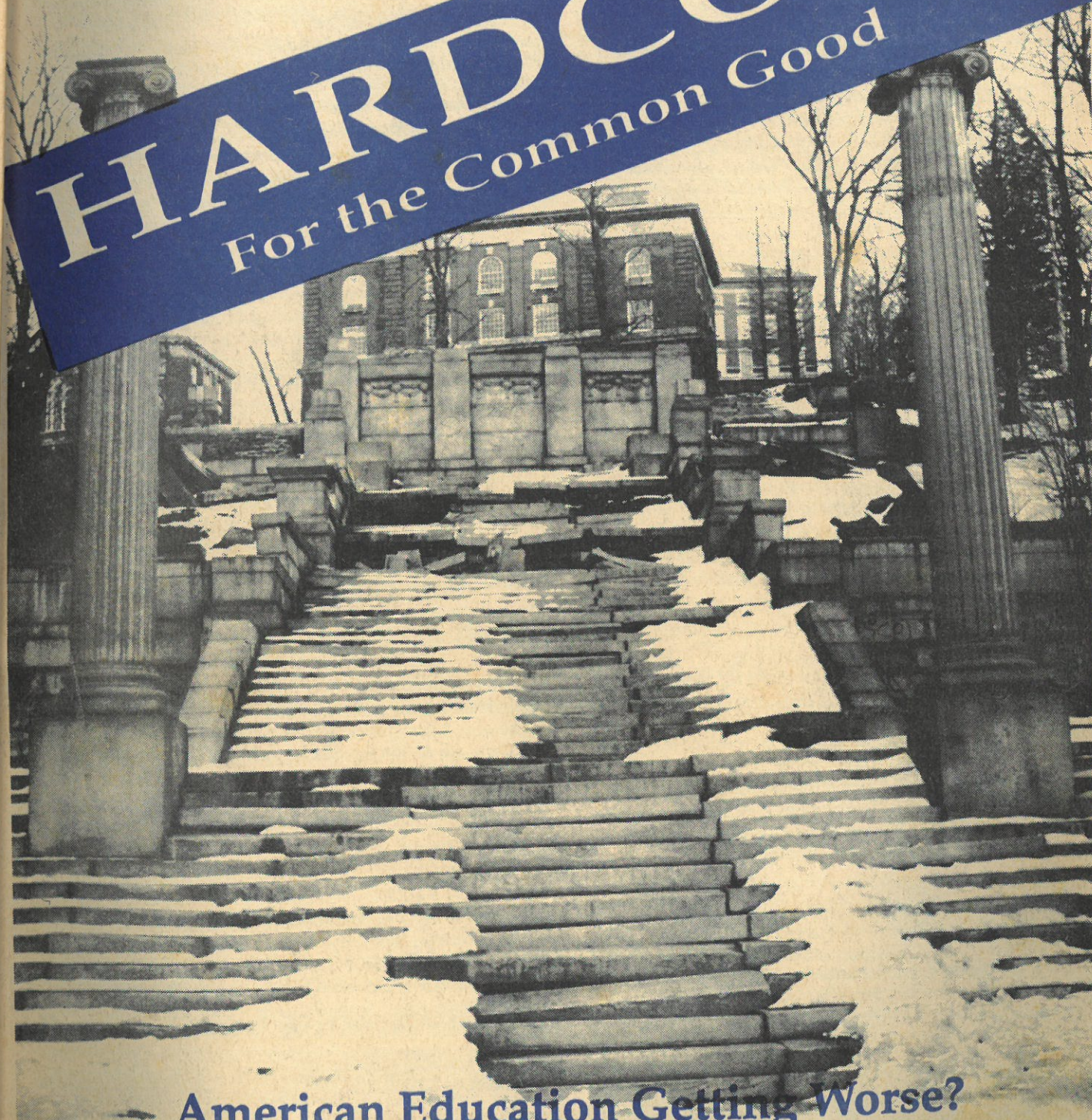
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American Education Getting Worse?

Vox Populi

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forum on all issues and therefore viewpoints are those of the
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COVER PHOTO: Built in 1907 in Beaux Arts neoclassical
style, The RPI Approach was once the gateway between Troy
and RPI, one of the oldest engineering schools in the U.S.
The Approach, like American education, has deteriorated
through neglect over the last 20 years and now rests as a
crumbling pile of broken steps.
Photo by Don Rittner.

The editors would like to note the passing of
Dr. Robert Reinow,
long time defender of the
environment.

EDITORIALS

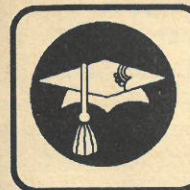
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Why Johnny Isn't Allowed to Read

Our school education ignores, in a thousand ways, the rules of healthy development..
—Elizabeth Blackwell, 1860

PARDON OUR CYNICISM. However, our subject, education, attracts cynicism like a swamp attracts flies. Just like those locusts which cloud the sky every 17 years and then disappear, national concern for education periodically blackens the horizon and then disappears without a trace.

In the fall of 1957 the Russians launched Sputnik and thereby set off a wave of national concern about our technological competitiveness. Part of this concern focused on education. We acted on that concern and set about improving our schools. But that action obviously was not enough, for here we are, once again, worried about education.

And, as before, our concern is prompted by fears of foreign competitors. This time it's the Japanese and the Koreans we fear rather than the Russians. One begins to suspect that, if it weren't for nationalistic competitiveness, we would be content to allow our schools to degenerate into nothing more than a training ground for professional sports teams -- and, of course, their attendant female cheering squads.

The story is not, of course, that simple. While the current cycle of educational concern has been prompted by a series of reports which show that US teenagers are more poorly educated than teenagers in other countries, we must also recognize that our college and university system is unsurpassed, and perhaps unequaled, anywhere in the world. Our best is as good as it gets, but our average, the education given to the typical citizen, is below average.

How is it that our democracy is able to provide a superb education for a meritorious few, but is willing to let the many languish in mediocrity? We don't really know, but we can point to ambivalence about learning and knowledge deep in our national character.

We, as a nation, believe that education is the great equalizer. Having rejected aristocratic European notions about the natural superiority of one social class over another, we believe that one can rise in the world through education and hard work.

As a practical matter, however, through much of our history it has been possible for clever and hard-working individuals to become quite wealthy and powerful without having to put up with very much education. One simply finds some available land and becomes wealthy through farming, grazing, mining, drilling, or developing that land to death. Such characters are a part of our national lore -- filthy rich, never been to college, never cracked a book, and damned proud of it! If the wealthiest family in town got that way without benefit of much education, then why should we set great importance in education? This attitude has undoubtedly been fed by ambivalence about our European heritage. We are Americans and we are different

from Europeans. They are the educated ones, but we've got all the gumption.

Something of this attitude finds its way into the center of our literature in *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*. Huck didn't go to school and Tom played hooky at every opportunity. And what adventures they had. Ironically enough, these proud and adventurous illiterates were necessarily the creation of a man who was very well-educated indeed.

In short, our democratic belief in the equalizing power of education has been undercut by our faith in the pioneer spirit. Why study hard to become spiritually equal when you can become materially superior by pioneering hard? The fact that this only worked for a very few people is beside the point, for the myth has been believed by us all.

However, our land is now thoroughly settled. The only real pioneering available to us is in the high tech world of tomorrow, which could well take us from the Moon, to Mars, to the Stars -- an adventure certainly worthy of our pioneering spirit. But that adventure requires a great deal of education if we are to create the high tech infrastructure needed to sustain it.

Meanwhile, our belief in the democratic power of education has an internal flaw which works against educational excellence. It is one thing to promote equality through education, but another thing entirely even to acknowledge superiority. In an article published in the *Johns Hopkins Magazine* for December 1988 Elise Hancock noted that "The federal government has just allocated \$7 million a year for [gifted] children, in comparison with \$4.5 billion for disadvantaged, handicapped, and bilingual students." In a way this makes sense: You spend the most money on those who most need help. Yet, if one thinks of education as a social investment -- allocating resources to unproductive members of society for the purpose of educating them so that they will be more productive in the future -- then this pattern of expenditure doesn't make sense. For it allocates the most money to those who are least likely to be productive and the least money to those who are likely to be extraordinarily productive. A stock broker who managed his client's portfolios in this way would go out of business.

The fact is, we are comfortable acknowledging and helping people who are variously disadvantaged, but we cannot admit that some people are intellectually superior to others. We have no trouble with athletic superiority -- after all, it makes for good television. And we can tolerate a measure of artistic superiority -- we just define it as a special kind of talent given to a few sensitive souls and then let those sensitive souls play our music, paint our

pictures, and write our poetry. But intellectual superiority is a problem. We need these people to create our technology, but we would be happier if they didn't exist. They are "nerds." Like Star Trek's Spock, they are not human.

An educational system which promoted the intellectual excellence of all students would of necessity promote the excellence of the intellectually gifted. The easiest way to avoid that is simply to avoid excellence. We may talk of democratic equality before the law, of equality of opportunity, but in educational practice, we seem to believe in most strongly in equality of capacity. Since, the belief goes, we all have the same capacity, no one will exhibit superior performance. We cannot afford to have an educational system which threatens this belief. In order to avoid creating such a system, one in which, more or less as a side effect, intellectually strong students would have an opportunity to distinguish themselves, we have created a system in which distinction is discouraged. We have thereby deprived all students of the opportunity to develop their intellectual talents.

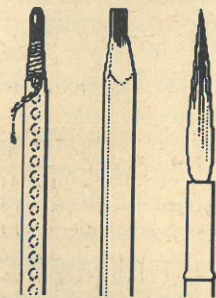
Thus, between our faith in the pioneer spirit and our

ambivalence about intellectual excellence, we undermine our educational system. The system is, of course, loose enough that excellence can develop, giving us a few superb colleges and universities, which are fed by a handful of excellent primary and secondary schools. But the routine education available to the majority of our citizens is now below the standard set by other nations of the world.

It seems that our crippling attitudes are so deeply embedded in the national consciousness that only fear of foreign domination is able to motivate us to reconsider our educational system. No doubt our current flurry of concern will produce improvements. But, unless we seriously and deeply reconsider those attitudes which cripple our educational efforts, those improvements will be only temporary. The trouble with counting on xenophobia as the stimulus to produce educational improvement is that, sooner or later, the stimulation will come too late. They will have gotten permanently ahead and we will have become the under-developed world.

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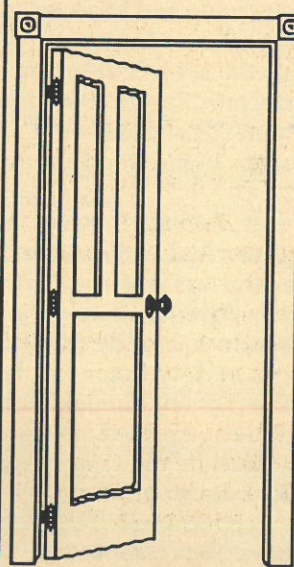
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MARCH, 1989



LETTERS to the Editor

To the Editor:

Hooray for *Hardcopy*! A terrific piece of alternative journalism -- precisely what was missing in the area. Tell Ned Woodhouse that I particularly enjoyed his first column. . . . I hope this gets plenty of readership.

Annette Kolodny,
Dean of Humanities
University of Arizona, Tucson

Annette Kolodny used to be on the faculty of RPI. She is an internationally known literary critic and writer.

To the Editor:

Hardcopy -- that is quite a journal! How on earth do you people plan to do something on that level every month? I hope you keep it going.

Art Efron
Department of English
SUNY at Buffalo

"Full speed ahead. Steady as she goes." Ed.

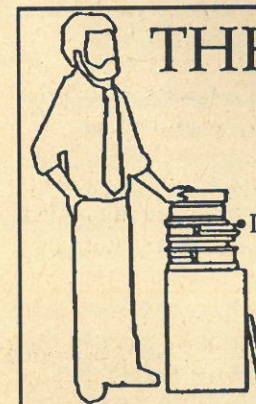
To the Editor:

I was recently in the Albany area while doing some research for my monograph on 17th Century Dutch colonial architecture and I happened upon your publication -- though given your strident polemical posturings perhaps "rag" would be the more appropriate designation. I do not generally lower myself to read, much less peruse, such material, but your distinctive graphic style caught my eye and I found myself leafing through the pages of, ahem!, *Hardcopy*. Being of a nature both sporting and scholarly, I was inevitably intrigued by your curious little contest to find the fake epigraph.

A rather ingenious idea, but, I must say, I was shocked at what I found upon examination of the aforesaid epigraphs. The "ringer," as you call it, was immediately obvious: "There is a difference between being young and being radical." I do not know what you had in mind in asserting that one Sir Geoffrey Beene said such a thing; but, as I am, for all intents and purposes and in all possible worlds, Sir Geoffrey Beene, I can assure you that he, that is, I, never said any such thing.

Just as Robin Masters is the *nom de guerre* under which I pen mystery novels, so Sir Geoffrey Beene is the *nom de guerre* under which I once penned the saga of a nobleman whose reduced circumstances forced him to flee to Australia where he went into the outback to wrestle crocodiles and make TV commercials. As you must surely know, Sir Geoffrey's *Memoirs* take up volume thirty-nine of the saga, but nowhere does he make any distinction between youth and radicality.

I must protest your putting words in Sir Geoffrey's pen. You have besmirched the reputation of a fine *nom de guerre*. As the creator of that *nom de guerre*, I demand an apology.



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HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The trade of authorship is a violent and indestructable obsession.
--George Sand, 1831

Sincerely yours,
Jonathan Quayle Higgins
Hawaii

The editors reply: We are perplexed. For, until we created *Hardcopy*, we had never heard of a Sir Geoffrey Beene. We have checked all the available bibliographic sources and have been unable to find anything written by a Sir Geoffrey Beene, nor, for that matter, by a Robin Masters either. If "Sir Geoffrey Beene" is, as you claim, your *nom de guerre*, it is an inactive one, for no saga, no *Memoirs*, has ever been published under that byline. We conclude therefore, Mr. Jonathan Quayle Higgins, that our choice of "Memoirs by Sir Geoffrey Beene" as the hook on which to hang our epigraph is perfectly just and proper. However, as you did correctly identify the ringer, we are pleased to give you a free subscription to *Hardcopy*: For the Common Good. Thank you for your interest.

To the Editor:

Congratulations on a good start. I wish you, against all odds, \$\$\$ and luck to keep you going. But...

But I must object to your editorial statement "That there was not, and is not, any one Establishment which controls this country."

Indeed there is.

It's the big \$ capitalists who run the corporations of this country which control the important aspects of our lives: real estate, power and light, communications, food, the arts.

Why are houses so expensive? If you were a real estate agent, would you want 6% of a \$100,000 or \$80,000?

If you were a power company, would you rather get the government subsidy for building a new, big nuclear power plant than no \$ for maintaining little hydroelectric plants?

Why don't the newspapers report, "George Bush Elected in Light Voter Turn-out?"

If the government can subsidize the destruction of crops why can't it feed the hungry too?

When the State of New York cuts the budget, why does it fire 6 workers at \$10,000 rather than one at \$60,000?

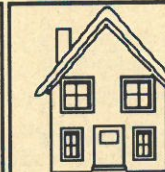
I suppose we could give different names to these "Establishment types." Call them what you will, but walk into the Fort Orange Club for lunch and when they turn you away, who cares what their name is.

"Capitalist," "the Establishment," "Ruling Class," "the Bosses," "Fascists," "them," they're all the same, just as we're all the same to them: bums, scum, beatniks, slob, niggers, hippies, wops, spicks, commies, fags, punks, etc.

Good luck. I hope to keep reading you for a long time.

Dan Wilcox
Albany

Interesting points. We plan on investigating several of the issues you raise, ED.



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MARCH, 1989



Science Education in the USA: Sputnik Revisited

by Barbara Grossman

*A people's literature is the great textbook for real knowledge of them.
The writings of the day show the quality of the people as no historical reconstruction can.*
—Edith Hamilton, 1932

IN JANUARY, the Educational Testing Service (ETS), a private nonprofit corporation devoted primarily to measurement and research of educational achievement, rocked the educational establishment of this country when it published *A World of Differences*. The 95 page report, which describes and summarizes the mathematics and science proficiency of approximately 24,000 13-year-olds in five countries and four Canadian provinces, indicates that American students are far behind their counterparts in British Columbia, Ireland, Korea, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The skills covered in the study include measurement, data organization and interpretation, logic and problem solving, understanding and applying scientific principles, analyzing scientific data, and integrating scientific information and experimental evidence — skills necessary to become competent consumers and workers in an increasingly technological world.

FACT: IN KOREA, 78 percent of the 13-year-old students tested could use intermediate mathematics skills to solve two-step problems, compared to only 40 percent in the United States.

Fact: Forty percent of Korea's 13-year-olds understood measurement and geometry concepts. Less than 10 percent of those from the United States showed the same skills.

Fact: More than 70 percent of the 13-year-olds in British Columbia and Korea could use scientific procedures and analyze scientific data, while only 35 to 40 percent of their peers in the United States could demonstrate the same abilities.

Fact: Despite their poor overall performance — lowest among all countries and provinces tested — about two thirds of the American 13-year-olds indicated that they were good at mathematics, while only 23 percent of the Korean students, highest scorers among those tested, shared the same attitude.

THE CONCLUSIONS are based on the results of 45 minute mathematics and science assessment tests of respectively 63 and 60 questions, taken in each test population by 2000 randomly selected students from 100 different schools, except in the United States, where the sample consisted of about 1000 students from selected form 200 schools. The questions used were selected from a pool of 281 mathematics and 188 science questions used in the 1986 National Assessment of Educational Progress, and were translated into the appropriate languages for the populations tested, as well as adapted for cultural differences.

In trying to interpret the results of the tests, ETS raised a number of concerns that will have to be addressed by all Americans and all levels of American government if the United States is to have an appropriately educated populace: At what age do children begin school and how long is the

school year?

What concepts and skills have been taught by age 13?

What practices do teachers use in the classroom?

What home experiences support learning?

What are students' attitudes about mathematics and science?

What is the value placed on education in each of the various societies?

ETS concludes, quite properly, that in the answers to these questions there is a combination of factors that puts the 13 year olds of other nations ahead of American students in their knowledge of math and science.

Barbara Grossman is a frequent writer for HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD. She lives in Albany.

•KOREAN EDUCATION

When a couple out-of-context lines from *A World of Differences* were published in the nation's newspapers last month, a sizable number of readers probably dismissed them with the thought that Asian students always do well in math and science. Those readers may have been surprised to learn that it's not just math and science at which Koreans excel. While it's hard to compare achievement in art and history or other subjects whose contents differ from culture to culture, it is instructive to learn that the literacy rate among Korean adults is 98 percent, while in the United States, at least 10 percent of adults are totally or functionally illiterate.

What accounts for the shockingly lower educational achievement in one of the richest countries in the world, compared to that in a much poorer recently developing country?

I was a teacher in a Korean middle school from 1977 to 1979. Students in my school in Pusan went to school six days a week, as do all students in Korea. In middle school, all children take eight or nine subjects, including math, science, history, Korean, English, Chinese characters, and ethics.

By American standards, Korean schools are poorly equipped. The classrooms in Pusan's schools are unheated, although the temperature goes below freezing during the winter. When I taught in Korea, some classrooms were without electric lights, the toilet facilities consisted of attached outhouses, and class size was an astounding 70 students.

Yet Korean students learn. They have to if they want to get ahead. If they want to be eligible for a place in the universities and colleges, they must do well on the state-run exams. Since the student's future career and status are determined by the college or university he or she attends, Korean students work very hard.

The high school student in the Korean family with which I lived studied until midnight each night and awakened at four to study a couple of hours before school. Korean families encourage their children to work hard and will make virtually any sacrifice to further their children's education.

Everything in Korean society reinforces the value of education. While Korean teachers are not highly paid, they are accorded a high status in Korean society, are respected by their students, and honored yearly with gifts on Teacher's Day. In turn, teachers are expected not only to impart factual knowledge in the classroom, but also to

set a moral example and to visit their students' homes to discuss educational or disciplinary problems.

My observations of Korean and American schools lead me to believe that American students just don't work as hard as Korean students. It is not necessary to go to school six days a week or sleep only four hours a night or to separate male and female students to get American students to learn more. It is necessary to provide them with the motivation to learn, and that may require changes in our schools and society, changes that we will have to make if we wish to have an educated populace capable of ending the deindustrialization of the United States.

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Failing Education System Needs Leaders: An Interview with Mario Scalsi

by Don Rittner

A leader is someone who can do everything himself, but let's other people help him.

—Don Rittner, 1972

MARIO SCALSI has been involved in education for 32 years. He has been a teacher of biology and chemistry, a guidance counselor, principal of a middle school and a high school, and superintendent of several school districts. He became Superintendent of the Troy City School District in 1984.

In response to the latest findings revealing that American school children do relatively poorly in Math and Science, *Hardcopy* interviewed Scalsi, asking him about his thoughts on the subject.

The latest report from the Education Testing Service shows several nations outscoring American kids in Math and Science. Americans have always considered themselves leaders in these two areas, especially over the last two decades. What is the reason for this poor showing?

I think the first thing we have to think about is, Was the value structure of American society and our expectations of ourselves and of our children different 20 years ago?

It seems that nations that are "haves", which we are, we are a "have" nation, have the greatest possibility of entering what I call a comfort zone, having what they need, having enough food, having the luxuries of life. All the amenities of that go along with living very well. Where is the need for the drive? Where is the need to achieve? My feeling is, very honestly, I think we lived on what our grandparents were able to achieve for us and it's ok right now to be "ok" for the largest part of our population, not for all our population, and to pass is fine.

But the need to be the very best is not the driving force. And, frankly, the nations that do not have all these nice things, the comforts of life, are striving to have them. They are in a very disciplined structure, and maybe even single-focused.

There are many facets to it. Another simplistic way of looking at it is that we continually study, through the *Source of Excellence* and other reports that have come down in education through the last 10 years, of how to redo the school building. Few of those reports talk about kids. They talk about the school building, almost like it's the place and wanting to keep remodeling this place until we have an old-fashioned remodeled school.

And we have a way of wanting to look and add to the bag of things that we have always been doing instead of having the veracity almost to empty out the whole bag. We are adjusters, adjusters to what we think is the good society, a sound society, the one that has given us all the productive amenities of life, the car, the house. We don't want to disturb the cart too much. We keep on adding to it.

I suggest we begin to empty out the whole bag and look at what is in the bag and start over again. What are the needs that we have to produce? And that unions, management and the like decide with single focus as to what is going to be our mission? Our mission is not that the schools are to become places of employment for adults. Instead they should become single mission. Each child can become the very best he or she can and that implies a duty, a duty on boards, administrators, teachers, support personnel, everybody should be of the same mind and same vision. I'm not sure that all has happened.

We are dealing with a society of multi-agendas. I view it as the "my" agenda and then we will talk about "your" agenda, instead of talking about the agenda of the essential educational mission. Until that changes, until we begin to almost find the need to have to do it, the American way was not to do it. Historically I think we point to that.

There is no doubt in my mind that we can surpass any one of these nations. The intellect in this country and the will and desire is in fact here but somehow it's dormant. It hasn't been touched. It hasn't been necessary to do it. Because these countries are better than we are right now in a statistical report, I'm not so sure it's going to make a whole lot of difference to most of the people because they still have all their amenities of life and their way of living, and its not going to change until there is a pressing need on the individual.

You see it isn't an easy problem. We have to redo our schools as places that are sensitive to what the missions of our nation happen to be. And if those missions are so very important, I would ask the question "Are our communities interested enough in becoming actively involved in schools, and in school districts, and on boards of educations, and committees to serve to meet certain specific missions of a district which collectively would be a mission of our nation?"

Would you say our educational system today is a dinosaur, created over 150 years ago for a society with different needs and goals? Is it not true that our teaching methods and policies are based on that nineteenth century mentality?

It is a dinosaur that we have tried to adjust and resuscitate repeatedly.

Rather than letting it go extinct?

Rather than saying it does not work. Let's rebuild an

entire new set, refocus upon our assessed needs, based upon research.

How are we going to do that? Reports show that kids are graduating from high school and cannot read or write a simple sentence. Fifty percent or more of the graduate schools are filled with foreign-born students. What is happening to our brain power? Where is it going? Do we blame the teachers because the kids are not coming out competent, or can we point the blame at anyone.

I think we all share in the blame. I don't think the finger should be pointed only at the teacher, or only at the administrator. I think our schools are reflective of our society. They have not been traditionally, or historically by the way, leaders of a society but instead they have followed a society generally three to five years behind.

I think its what we want as a society for our nation. That's a big and broader question and it has to do with governmental leaders at the very top. Are they in fact leaders? Are they visionaries? Are they people who can engender enthusiasm within the population - to want to be the best?

Do we know the answer to that? Here in New York State, there was a large controversy about teaching AIDS to kids, even though it is a major killer. The Regents appeared to be living in the dark ages. Where do we find these education leaders?

It is broader than that. Who do we have in our government today and how are we doing to attract the brightest and best to be our nation's leaders? Because that's where its starts. It doesn't start in the schools.

Most recently we had an opportunity to talk about raising the salary of our leaders in the nation, but phenomenal movements appeared from people who were saying, "Well my husband doesn't make that much and he works making such and such on a production line." Is that kind of thinking consistent with we want to have the brightest and best leading our nation? What are we going to do to attract the brightest and best, or is it ok to have just anybody there who will take the job? Or is it ok to have anybody there that have other sources of income and interests, and their primary mission in life is not, in fact, excellence of our nation?

We have almost a down leveling mentality which we seem to be going through in this nation. Its ok to be ok. He's no better than I. Why should he get more than me? I didn't achieve that so why should I give to him?

It's a drag, and its going to continue to drag our nation down and until we can turn it around and start talking about how do we attract nationwide the brightest and best, which in turn will be how can we empty out the bag and redo our schools so we attract the brightest and best in the classroom and to schools - and teaching the one biggest resource we have in our nation.

It's not gold, not silver, not tin, not uranium, it's our youth. That's our future and the intent of what our schools are for. Are they simply to teach kids a technology, or is it simply to teach youngsters to know a trade, to go out and make a living? Are we feeders of industry? Or are we instead the one vehicle which we have to perpetuate our nation's culture, our democratic way of life, our society, that written word that came long before computers, maybe the arts and music, all of these things, it's the whole big bag.

What to teach seems to be one of the main problems. Our kids are not developing skills, nor learning the kinds of information they need to compete in an increasingly complex world. We can talk to almost anyone on the globe in seconds, but still very few schools have computers and many students think Wyoming is another country.

We need to engender I believe, rather than still, a feeling within our communities that they are in fact responsible for and have a responsibility in their schools. Its not something that is done by the other guy for me. "I'm too busy for it," you hear. "I've got other things to do."

The other argument is that is why we have a school board. Let them do it.

That is exactly right and how many people are interested in a job that takes so very much time, is so very much responsible? Has not the complexion of school boards over the last decade not changed? I think the answer to that is "yes."

Positive or negative?

I don't know that. There are not that many people who are interested. The people that are in the professions, who are community leaders, are not serving on school boards as they did decades ago, because they're too busy. Maybe it's other things that have assumed to become priorities over education, and maybe education is not the priority of the nation.

George Bush wants to become the education president of the nation. What does that mean?

I've only heard him say it, sounds real good. We'll know if he's the education president, and I don't even know what that means. Is he going to begin to focus upon education — you do it for us? I turn back and tell you the same thing again. He needs to be a leader to engender a spirit throughout our nation which then in itself will drive for the improvement of schools. School is not an isolated thing.

Would you say that our excellence in Science and Math during the 60's was in part due to the leadership of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson? Kennedy's very focused agenda to land on the moon within a decade demanded that we educate our youth, as well as our society.

I don't know that. I can't answer that question. I don't know if that was it, or was it because we were still running the post war machine and feeling to want to be the best and want to rebuild, make the transition, and want to be world leaders, and proud of the fact that we were world leaders. We were on a high at the particular time and that was a very different generation. I think John Kennedy said some of those things. I don't know very much of his legislation that demonstrated it.

I think Johnson tried to move much more legislation education's way in the mid 60s trying to level up what we offering the "have nots" in our nation. He did a great deal.

If anyone was an education president, so far, I would say Johnson. Over the last couple of decades, he's done a great deal for education. We are still doing things now in some forms that were passed in 1965 with the elementary and secondary education act.

It seems the Troy school district suffered the same education failure that gripped the country over the last couple of decades. Can you compare Troy's education 20 years ago with today.

I can tell you what I found when I came in 84. What was viewed was a community and a school district that, by their own admission, and their own statements, indicated they were not what they wanted to be. "Make us better. Help make us better. Show us the way to be better. Show us a way to be proud of our schools again." And I heard that from staff. "Help us develop, if we need to develop. Give us the opportunity to participate in this rebirth and renaissance of the schools of Troy as we have in the community of Troy. Help us get recognized in the Capital area as leaders not as the place as not to live to educate your children."

And that's turned around. We are leaders in the Capital area.

How about some statistics. Where did Troy rank before and now.

I can tell you we were close to the bottom in our SAT scores. We are now second from the top. The only district beating us now is Shenandoah, of all the 28 schools in the capital area.

Our attendance was 80% at the high school level and it is now 97% at the high school level.

Our drop out rate was close to 10%, and now between 1.2 and 1.5 - it was 1.7 last year.

We didn't have youngsters going out to employment. We are leaders in school and business alliance. We're

leaders, we believe, as participants in our economic development zone. We are leaders in the Capital Area Redevelopment Group. We represent members of the board of directors of universities, in terms of our developing educators of tomorrow, or administrators for tomorrow. We are leaders in at risk programs that are county wide programs.

Another major complaint is teachers are too bogged down in paper work instead of teaching.

That may be true, but just taking the paper work away from teacher is not going to solve the problem. That again, is nibbling at what is in the bag. We have got to have a mission. We have got to have goals, and ways to achieve them. We've got to find out who is going to achieve them, how long it's going to take, and an accountability mechanism so we know how to be accountable.

How does one judge the accountability of a teacher? What guidelines are set up to weed out bad teachers and administrators.

The accountability structure and how to implement that accountability structure has a long history and it has a history of different groups lobbying for legislation, so that their fiefdoms and the people within their fiefdoms, be they administrators, teachers or others, are in fact protected.

I think its going to be ultimately a realization by the leaders of all these different groups that unless we decide to collectively decide together the mission is more important, then nothing is going to happen. There has to be a way to improve.

Will we succeed?

I have great faith in our system.

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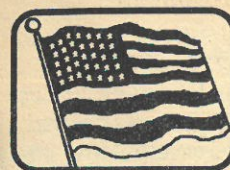
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The Government Can't, After all

by David G. Hays

In rejecting secrecy I had also rejected the road to cynicism.
—Catherine Marshall, 1967

I WORKED FOR The RAND Corporation, in Santa Monica, California, from 1955 until 1968. Those were great days at RAND. This institution had been created, the first of its type and, as far as I'm concerned the last to date, in 1946. Donald Douglas and others saw that the scientists and the best engineers, who had worked on military projects during World War II out of patriotism, would not continue to work for the government during peacetime unless they found better conditions than those that prevailed in government laboratories. RAND was a department of Douglas Aircraft for a time, but in 1948, with the help of a grant from the Ford Foundation, it became independent. It had a one-line annual contract with the Air Force, requiring it to do something useful. The contract was signed at a very high level in the Air Force, and I learned later that the capacity of government officials to think and act with intelligence decreases rapidly with distance from the White House, so that high-level connection must have been important.

RAND was really good. I came to RAND from Harvard, where I had gone through college and the first part of a doctoral program in Social Relations. From there I went to the new Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (on the Stanford campus). The density of intelligence at RAND was higher than at either Harvard or the Center.

RAND was also secretive. At that time, you had to be a staff member with good clearance to walk alone in the building. Secrecy was never attractive to me, but I learned a lot of reasons to respect secrecy. The Cold War was real, and it cost some lives on each side every year. Without secrecy, it would probably have cost more lives — although if Vietnam was part of the Cold War, and if Vietnam could have been prevented by making public some of what was secret, then secrecy may have cost more lives than it saved. By now, most of us have read in newspapers and books most of the reasons that I learned for keeping secrets.

Another RAND client was the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), which was charged with building, and keeping secret, nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors. I found one of the smartest students I knew at Harvard working in the Physics Department at RAND, and that gave me the feeling that the AEC was getting the best advice the country could give.

So it was quite a shock to read, on page one of the New York Times for Monday, January 16, 1989, that the government's nuclear weapons personnel were incapable of the scientific rigor needed to meet the civilian regulations for building a waste-storage site.

That is really low. It was a shock, too, to read on Sunday the 15th that the Russians, of all people, want to sell us a miniature reactor to power our satellites. Theirs is said to be better than ours.

These sad events strengthen a familiar argument against secrecy: The argument that that secrecy protects incompetence. The government's workers do not have to be good enough to meet criticism if all the potential critics are either cut off from knowing how dumb or ignorant or lazy the workers are, or if the critics are required to publish in secret places where the public and the Congress cannot read the criticism. Accurate, deadly criticism in a public place leads to a storm of protest and eventually to change. But accurate, deadly criticism in a secret place can be brushed aside as the dithering of a simpleton who, not being good enough to be on the team, is throwing mudballs at those who fight the real fight. Criticism published secretly does not reach a large enough audience to generate a storm; a tempest in a teapot is nothing to worry about.

On balance, it begins to appear that we have lost more than we have gained by keeping our secrets. Nuclear weapons spread to other powers, great and small, in spite of secrecy. Vietnam happened, and whether publicity could have kept us out or brought us out sooner is moot. Covert action in many places has had so many effects—good, surely, as well as bad—that final assessment would be premature. But the cost of the follies that were kept secret, and therefore could go on, is beginning to show up in the national accounts, and we can see now that the total will be prodigious when we can finally reckon it.

Donald Douglas was right, but not right enough. Scientists and engineers of the best sort did work for RAND, but their good work was not enough to keep the government out of trouble. The necessity for workers of the best sort in every part of government has never been satisfied. The workers who were willing to work under the asinine system of civil service and bureaucratic fol-de-rol were, apparently, not good enough to meet the country's needs. And the general secrecy has let them go on and on with their foolishness.

The case for continuing secrecy into the future is weaker than at any time since the Cold War began. We won the Cold War, and the loser has announced the age of Glasnost, specifically in order to root out incompetence. We'd do well to jump on that bandwagon, forthwith.

David G. Hays is an independent scholar working in linguistics, cognition, comparative anthropology, and the aesthetics of the ballet. He lives in Manhattan.



Mercury Recycling Proposal Threatens Hill Town

by Jeff Skelding

As cruel a weapon as the cave man's club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life.
--Rachel Carson, 1962

CITIZENS IN THE TOWN OF WESTERLO, a small rural hamlet in the Hill Towns southwest of Albany, have decided they want no part of a proposed mercury recycling operation in their backyard. Because of increasing volumes of secondary mercury-bearing materials, mostly used watch and hearing-aid batteries, the Mercury Recycling Co. (MEREKO) of 26 Railroad Ave. Colonie is attempting to expand its activities to Westerlo.

Despite receiving assurance to the contrary, the residents of Westerlo fear that the mercury-processing plant will become a health hazard. MEREKO officials have stated that the operation will pose little threat to public health and the environment. Although relatively small amounts of the element will be introduced to the environment (air emissions from burning) the plant will operate 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

However, mercury is a toxic element with no half-life, meaning it does not disappear in nature. Thus, although plant emissions may be minor at any given time, constant accumulation will occur, acting on the surrounding countryside through deposition by rain and snow, fugitive emissions at the plant, and accidental releases in transport, year-in and year-out. Further, once deposited on land, mercury chemically transforms into a much more toxic form and is taken up by plants, animals and eventually by humans.

Westerlo residents are afraid that this process may significantly alter the natural cycles of wildlife and water flow and could ultimately affect human health. For, as part of the general process of accumulation, mercury accumulates in the flesh of animals. As the bigger animals eat the smaller, this accumulation is magnified in the higher levels of the food chain. We are the biggest animal in this food chain.

AN EXAMINATION of MEREKO's housekeeping practices at their Colonie plant reveals woeful inadequacies. In the early 1980's, a letter was written to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by a man who happened to be on the property installing burglar alarms. He saw "globules of liquid mercury" dumped in MEREKO's backyard on the shores of the Patroon Creek, a tributary of the Hudson River. This led to a DEC investigation where enormous levels of mercury were found. Eventually MEREKO was listed as a Federal Superfund site, identifying it as one of the worst toxic sites in the country.

Later the State Attorney General's office directed MEREKO to fund the cleanup; which they did with much resistance. MEREKO claims that these activities occurred over the past 2 decades before strict environmental regulations were in place. Although this is true, the dangers associated with mercury exposure have been known since

the 1950's. Evidently, this information was overlooked by MEREKO officials. More recently, in January of 1985, the DEC cited MEREKO with 9 violations of the Environmental Conservation Law, ranging from mislabeling of chemical containers to an absence of worker safety precautions. This history of negligence has upset many Westerlo citizens, and rightly so, since they may have to be neighbors of MEREKO for the next 30 to 40 years.

AS RECYCLING becomes a routine procedure in the processing of waste, it will soon be necessary to establish facilities to handle the recycling of mercury. Mercury recycling is a prudent operation because it promotes reuse which reduces the volume of mercury introduced to the environment. Additionally, recycling keeps mercury-bearing material out of landfills with possible consequences of groundwater and air pollution and it keeps them out of incinerators where emissions to the atmosphere are much greater than a recycling plant.

It is important, however, that the recycling process is operated with strict adherence to state and local regulations and the location of the site is chosen so that the environmental impact will be minimized.

In the Westerlo situation, neither the site choice nor the operator fits these criteria. Westerlo is a rural community relying on tourism and agriculture for its vitality. The Hill Towns were recently noted as one of the most pristine areas in the state. Industrial activity is thus not consistent with the culture of the area.

Additionally, the roads which lead to and from the proposed facility are steep, winding, and narrow. MEREKO plans to truck recovered mercury, a toxic substance, from their Westerlo plant to the Colonie plant. Village officials have stated that current levels of emergency equipment and trained personnel available to the town are inadequate to handle an accident which might occur on these roads. Westerlo also sits in the watershed of the City of Albany's drinking water supply, the Alcove Reservoir. Years of mercuric deposition and accidental emissions may have a profound impact on future quality of a drinking water supply which serves over 100,000 people.

WHAT DOES all this mean to the citizens of Westerlo and the future of MEREKO? Fortunately, a core group of concerned residents have taken the time, energy, and expense of educating themselves and their neighbors and organized to fight MEREKO's project. They are up against a tough opponent in a company which has already invested thousands of dollars at the site and will

not go away easily.

On February 21, 600 residents of the Hill Towns turned out for an informational presentation by MEREKO on the planned operations of their plant. The presentation consisted of a brief history of MEREKO and a highly technical description of the safety features of the plant. A floor plan, too small to be seen by anybody behind the front row, was used as a visual prop. After 10 minutes MEREKO officials provided an opportunity for questions. What they got was a unanimous outcry of opposition to their project. In no uncertain terms, the residents of the Hill Towns communicated their message, PROTECT WESTERLO, SAY NO TO MEREKO! When DEC wildlife pathologist Ward Stone questioned the merits of the project in terms of environmental and public health protection, he received a loud standing ovation.

So, what needs to be done to block a project which has virtually no public support, may have potentially extreme negative environmental and health implications which far outweigh any economic advantages, and is backed by an applicant company with a questionable conscience and an unquestionable profit motive? In this case, screaming at MEREKO won't be enough. They have weathered the loudest public demonstration they will experience and are still determined to set up operations.

ONE APPROACH is to involve local agencies in the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process, a complicated review process which determines the environmental impact of projects like MEREKO. Since the local planning board must issue a special-use permit to MEREKO under new zoning laws effective March 6, they retain local control over the project.

However, the DEC is currently deciding if MEREKO's proposed operation requires a hazardous waste permit. If they don't require the permit, local control applies. If a hazardous waste permit is required then a hazardous waste siting board process is triggered and the decision of that body overrules any local zoning.

Westerlo citizens have speculated that these decisions have already been made behind closed doors with the intent of taking local control away. This would be unfortunate because it is the citizens of Westerlo who must live with the results of these decisions. It should also be noted that, if a hazardous waste siting board is established, local citizens will be appointed to it. However, a lack of technical expertise may render their input less meaningful (although no less valuable) in the eyes of the ultimate decision-makers.

A SECOND approach is to educate public officials on the negative impacts of MEREKO's proposal and urge that they speak out against the project. The City of Albany, whose water supply will be directly affected, should oppose the project because of a need for public health protection. State legislators Paul Tonko and Howard Nolan need to listen to the LOUD voices of their constituents. This issue has attracted such a high profile that it warrants the attention of

the Governor. These are the people who have the institutional power to influence policymakers and determine the fate of MEREKO.

If MEREKO is ultimately defeated, credit goes to a small core group of citizens who recognized this threat to the health of their community. Without their involvement nothing would have prevented MEREKO from setting up shop in the Hill Towns and sending a loud message to other industries similarly interested.

Jeff Skelding is the program coordinator for the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, an Albany based environmental organization working for the protection of New York's water resources.

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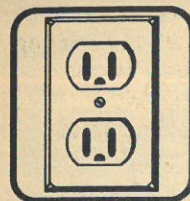
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New York Poverty and State Energy and Utilities Policy

by Dwayne Ward

The heartless stupidity of those who have never known a great and terrifying poverty.
—Edith Sitwell, 1965

THE POOR SPEND over a quarter of their income on energy. According to the Public Utility Law Project of New York, in the period 1972 to 1973 the average low-income family spent 11 percent of its income on energy while the typical non-poor family spent 2.5 percent. After the initial Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil embargo and the energy crisis that followed, the numbers changed drastically. By 1980-81 the non-poor had increased their energy expenditures to only 3.5 percent while the poor had their energy bills more than doubled to 28 percent of total income.

It is thus obvious that public utility and energy policy is of tremendous importance to the poor. For that reason, the Public Utility Law Project of New York (PULPNY) was founded in the early 1980s to operate as a "public interest law firm representing the interests of low income utility and energy consumers."

The purpose of this article is to review some facts about poverty in New York State and to explain the program of PULPNY in that context.

Poverty In New York

Poverty, in New York and the nation, has increased over the last twenty years (see Figure 1). The official poverty standard, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is an annual income of \$11,611 for a family of four. In 1987 a little over 14.6 percent of the New York population was thus "officially" in poverty, compared to 13.5 percent nationally. That is higher than in 1979, and a significantly higher proportion than in 1969, five years after the national "war on poverty" was instituted as a result of the Kennedy/Johnson Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (see Figure 1).

In New York in 1987 about 38 percent of people of Spanish origin and 31.6 percent of blacks were poor. The impact of poverty was higher for all women (at nearly 17 percent) than the general population, however it was astronomical for women of Spanish origin where about 42 percent were poor. A high rate of nearly 34 percent of black women were in poverty. Data for 1985 suggest an even substantially worse poverty situation (see figure 2).

So, while the Reagan years are often seen in some sectors as a period of prosperity with relatively low unemployment rates, the number of people living at or below the poverty level in 1987 in New York was about 2.6 million, which is many more people than the entire population of some states in the U. S. And among the New York poor are over 1.1 million children, about 43 percent of total impoverished people.

Poor people in New York, as in the nation, tend to be housing renters rather than home owners. In 1980 there

were close to 6.7 million housing units in New York State of which some 6.3 million were occupied. Among these were over 867 thousand units with occupants below the poverty level, or 13.7 percent of all occupied housing units (a percentage about identical with impoverished individuals). However, only 18.9 percent of the people in poor households were home owners (of 163,530 units). Impoverished renter-occupied housing units numbered 703,801, which were 80.1 percent of housing units inhabited by poor people.

Put another way, only 5.3 percent of owner-occupied housing units were occupied by poor people, while 21.6 percent of rental housing had poor occupants. It is these low income households that PULPNY attempts to help by fighting for the utility and energy rights of poor people.

Energy and Utilities Benefits For the Poor

The Public Utility Law Project of New York has philosophical and financial (that is, budget) links to Legal Aid and the Legal Services Corporation. The Legal Aid concept of providing legal services to the poor goes back to the 19th Century in New York and the U.S. and is mostly privately funded. The Legal Services Corporation, (LSC) originated in the 1970s as a federal program to provide legal services to the poor.

PULPNY was founded in the early 1980s as an offshoot of a Legal Services Corporation funded organization that had been in operation since 1976. A new outfit was needed to fight for the utility and energy rights of poor people without being hampered by the growing restrictions placed on LSC organizations by the hostile Reagan administration, which persistently tried to abolish the Legal Services Corporation altogether. PULPNY's small staff (it was 13, until the recent state budget crisis reduced it to 10) has been funded mainly by the New York Legislature via contracts with New York State agencies, including the Consumer Protection Board and the Department of State (DOS). The DOS handles, among other things, U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) monies.

The basic concept of PULPNY is to improve the situation of the poor and of people on fixed incomes by working within the legislative and regulatory structure of the state government to affect both utility rates and programs which provide energy assistance. PULPNY normally is the only state-wide non-governmental entity representing low-income consumer interests before the state Public Service Commission (PSC). PULPNY's director Bob Piller noted "it somehow seems more

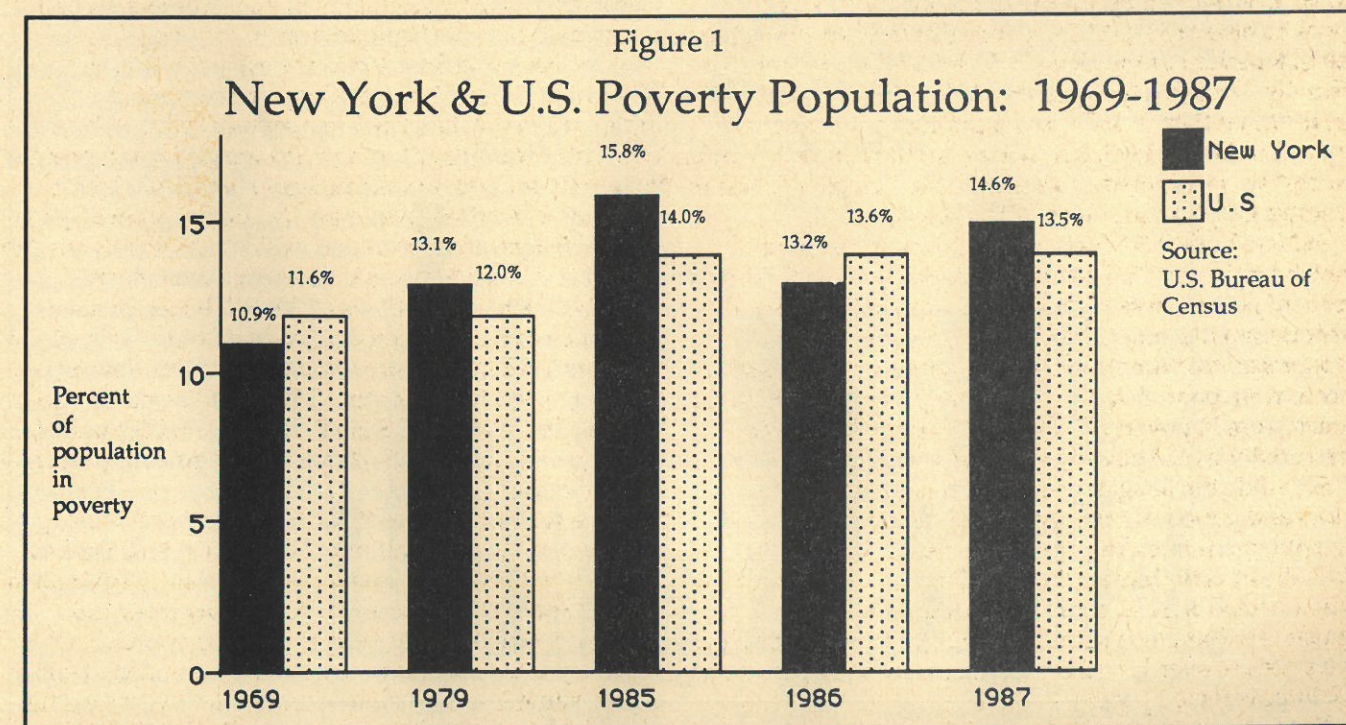
politically viable to engage in advocacy for the rights of poor people through energy and utility issues than to try to increase their income." Unlike Legal Services offices in New York, PULPNY does not work directly with clients on a one to one basis. Rather, it operates with organizations which support the interests of the rank-and-file poor, including the state's many Legal Service and Legal Aid offices which directly serve poor people. PULPNY also operates as an activist think tank which negotiates and litigates on behalf of its low income constituency.

The organization's primary focus is on electric, fuel oil, and telecommunications areas such as rate and pricing intervention, customer service issues, and policy analysis. PULPNY also monitors and does economic and demographic research on the state's poverty situation and aspects of housing. On the matter of rates, PULPNY examines rate increase requests and intervenes in rule-making and rate cases before the PSC. PULPNY, for instance, was involved in the establishment of telephone "life-line" rates in 1987 for poor people on public assistance programs. Under this program it is possible to obtain a basic telephone line for as little as \$1 a month, a rate which is particularly significant since telephone deregulation and the breakup of AT&T have probably resulted in much higher telephone bills generally. The provision of life-line rates to the poor people is justified by the general desirability of universal service, social equity, and lower levels of use, and/or lower levels of cost to the utilities companies.

Among its efforts, PULPNY has presented a major initiative to the state legislature which would provide a 15 percent discount to low income customers on energy bills.

This effort, with is called the Universal Utility Service Act (USA), is being pursued in continuing legislative lobbying work. In customer service cases PULPNY follows and sometimes challenges telephone, gas, and electric consumer practices such as late payments charges and security deposits, and terminations (that is, shut-offs of service). For example, PULPNY is currently trying to affect the PSC's regulations on charges for power line extensions by attempting to assure that poor people will not subsidize other residential rate payers and be kept out of affordable housing by the cost of having utilities hooked up. Although the issue sounds simple enough, it has required PULPNY staff to do a great deal of research, attend scores of meetings over a two year period, and file numerous legal documents. This particular case is being pursued on behalf of the United Tenants of Albany by PULPNY, which is a typical approach used in its advocacy work.

PULPNY's energy policy work involves efforts to develop and improve energy and utility related assistance programs, including, for example, the federal/state Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), not to mention insisting on the rights of poor people in various advocacy situations through the usual legal channels. PULPNY is also (mostly on an intellectual level, currently) particularly interested in energy conservation and and works with the Public Service Commission, the Department of State, and the State Energy Office on these issues. Finally, the organization shares credit for the Home Energy Fair Practices Act (HEFPA) which was enacted by the state legislature in 1981. HEFPA established a variety of statutory rights and protections



for residential gas and electric consumers.

A serious problem that PULPNY and other advocates for low income people in New York face, however, is that there is no independent source of funding for interveners in utility rate cases such as there is elsewhere in the country, for example, in California. So PULPNY must temper its advocacy so it does not offend its state funders. On the other hand, California intervener money is spent on work considered to have made significant contributions by Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission, who are not particularly interested in consumer issues, let alone the poor. So independence is not assured in that case either. In contrast, the utilities companies are exceptionally well funded and represented to push for their interests.

PULPNY as Model Organization

In the creation and continued operation of PULPNY we see at least a glimmer of politics which is more progressive than that in simpler and often more cynical political environments. Yet, we should emphasize, poverty has increased since the 1970 census and homeless people have already frozen to death this winter in New York. Indeed, the current New York State government "fiscal crisis" may well be resolved more at the expense of programs for poor people than the non-poor.

Perhaps this New York organization, PULPNY, is a model from which other states in the country can take some instruction in this age of self-absorbed apathy. While the 1980s have been ostensibly a conservative period, dreams of

social justice rekindled in the 1960s have carried on simultaneously in some quarters, and deprivation and oppression continued to stimulate cries for social change.

As Martin Luther King said, "I have a dream." Many of us still do. That is why we should encourage programs like PULPNY. We should also fight for fundamental structural changes in our economy and society so that we can vastly reduce the poverty, hunger and homelessness predicaments, which are inherent in the way our system currently works. The solutions — if any in contemporary America — besides throwing the homeless and the poor in general a few bones and a crumb or two, figuratively speaking, are less clear.

Information Resources:

Lawrence Mishel and Jacqueline Simon, *The State of Working America* (Washington, D.C.: The Economic Policy Institute, 1988), pp. 35-39.

Isabel V. Sawhill, "Poverty in the U.S.: Why Is It So Persistent?" *Journal of Economic Literature* (Sept. 1988), pp. 1073-1119.

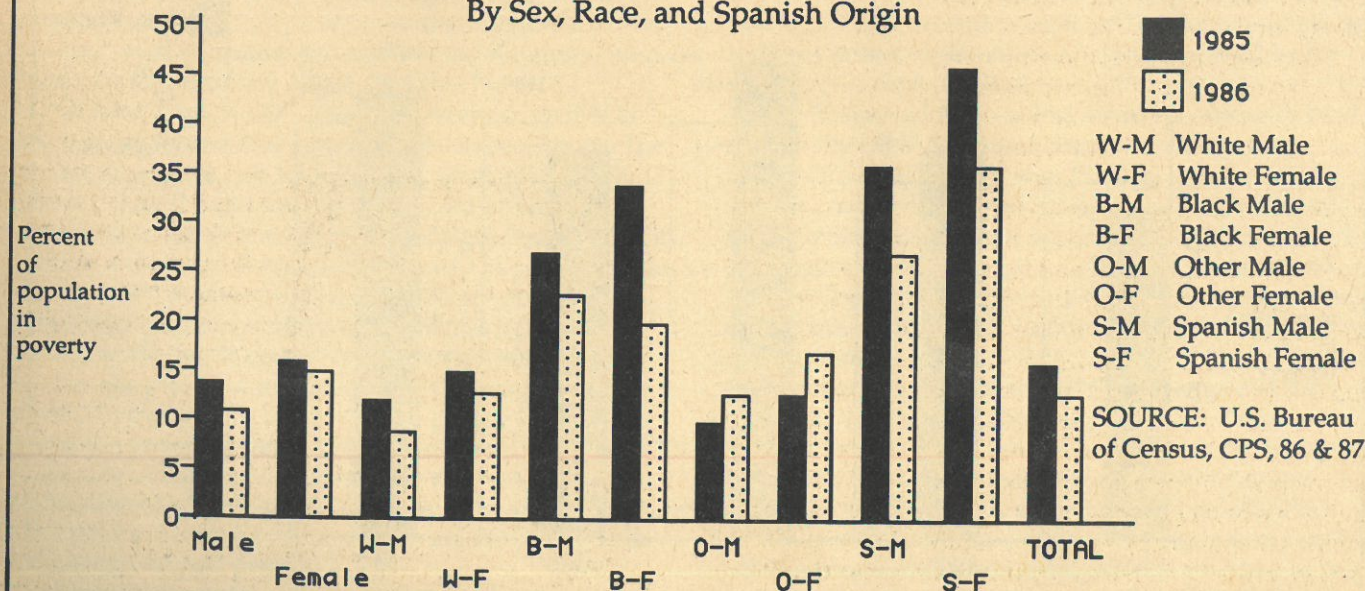
James O'Connor, *The Fiscal Crisis of the State* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1973).

The poverty data come from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, including the 1970 and 1980 censuses and the 1986 and 1987 Current Population Surveys (CPS). The CPS information has been generously provided by the State Data Center in the New York Department of Economic Development. A caveat on the CPS is it was designed more for national than state information gathering, but is viewed as being statistically valid by one NY Department

Figure 2

Poverty In New York In 1985 & 1986

By Sex, Race, and Spanish Origin



of Social Services statistician I spoke with; the censuses are often criticized for undercounting minorities, the poor, and homeless people.

Dr. Ward is a sociology and economics professor at National University in Oakland, California, and at Monterey Peninsula College. He is a former PULPNY staff member.

Poverty and Capitalism in New York and America

A decade and a half ago James O'Connor published his classic *The Fiscal Crisis of the State* in which he argued that the state, in the broad sense including federal, state, and local government, has dual and contradictory functions of "accumulation" and "legitimation." The state is a bit of a Jeckle and Hyde.

The public sector — in the midst of seemingly perpetual fiscal, economic, and other crises endemic to capitalism — stimulates the economy and protects business interests on many levels (including militarily) — accumulation. But the state also needs to make it appear that ugly social problems, such as homelessness and poverty are being dealt with in a fair and equitable fashion — legitimation. America is an open society, a democracy, in the popular ideology. In the intervening period on the national level there have been the Reagan years, seen as a revolution and an economic miracle by ideologues on the right and as a kind of "friendly fascism" by ideologues of the left.

Thus, both accumulation and legitimation serve the interests of the capitalists. Yet the legitimation function also results in the provision of real social needs, like income for disabled people, and at the same time placates people who might otherwise take their dissatisfaction into the voting booth or engage in public protest. This is not the entire story, of course, because most people in our society are genuinely upset at seeing human misery. For example, the utilities in this country in general are now prohibited from turning off the heat in the middle of winter cold.

The Democratic Cuomo administration in New York during much of the same period has suggested that New Yorkers are members of a family (even though part of the family has to sleep cold and hungry in subway stations and other dangerous places). To some extent in this part of the northeastern U.S. we see contradictory philosophies and approaches when we consider the fact that welfare programs are local, state, and federal, and jurisdiction over energy and utilities issues is divided. New York public policy is more progressive than the harsh national political climate, associated with the Reagan years, which presumably will continue with the Bush Presidency.

That is, the Cuomo government is perhaps benevolent, at least in its rhetoric if not completely in its deeds. Both federal and NY State government, of course, have legislative branches which are not necessarily lined up completely politically with the executive branches. Which has led James O'Connor (personal communication) to ponder that "Bush may have to recognize a sort of

'Congressional Government' which will include a right, center, and left..." In the same way, Cuomo has to recognize powerful commercial, industrial, and financial interests in New York, as well as his liberal constituency.

Does this small energy and utilities program (PULPNY) funded mainly by New York State but with a link to the 19th Century Legal Aid philosophy fit into the accumulation/legitimation way of viewing the economic world? Yes it does, but it perhaps goes beyond the typical model where struggles for and against the poor are conducted by contradictory entities strictly within the state. That is, this piece of the legitimation apparatus isn't a hoax. It actually does act in the interests of the poor. Here we see a body to "regulate the regulators," focused on the needs of low income people, and acting through cooperation, negotiation, and litigation in small but significant ways.

In contrast, the New York Public Service Commission must operate to please the utilities industry and a better organized constituency, including especially industrial consumers. PULPNY has no well organized constituency so much as the ambivalent support of parts of the state apparatus, as is evidence by recent losses in its budget and staff. Therefore, PULPNY is operating within the framework which more serves the affluent and industrial interests, however, it is a structure in place willing and able to press for meaningful utilities and energy policies for the poor.

ADDENDUM. The New York State Data Center has just released 1987 poverty information gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau 1988 Current Population Survey. Overall, poverty was estimated to be 14.6% in 1987, up from 13.2% in 1986. More women, blacks, and spanish origin people were poor in the state in 1987, compared with 2.3 million in 1986, for an increase of about 11%.

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An Interview with Ivan Garcia, Nicaraguan Economist. Part 2

by Barbara Grossman

IVAN GARCIA IS AN economist in the Nicaraguan Ministry of Agriculture. This interview, in which Garcia talks about how he attained his position in the Nicaraguan government, relations between Nicaragua and other countries, the Nicaraguan economy, and negotiations with the contras and the Miskito Indians, was conducted in the summer of 1988 while he was visiting his wife's family in the capital district.

Ivan, you said that in Managua you don't feel the effects of war, or don't see them every day in the same way that people in the countryside do. Are there any shortages of things -- everyday things, that you see in Managua?

Yes. First, we haven't been able to recuperate the levels agricultural production that we had before the revolution. In recent years, production has been getting lower and lower. And the main reason is not only that we haven't regained the productivity which we had, but also because we don't have the inputs and we don't have the money for buying the inputs. You cannot increase agricultural production without agrochemicals.

Agrochemicals are not produced in Nicaragua. We don't have the raw materials for doing that. We have to import them. And we have serious shortages of foreign currency. We have to distribute that among medicines, basic consumption, and production. But we never have had enough for assuring 100 percent production. We need the production to increase the foreign currency, but since we don't have the foreign currency, we cannot increase production.

It is too bad that we haven't had a decent rainy season since the revolution started. At the world level, the weather is changing and the consequence in Central America is that the rainy season is becoming drier and drier, and we don't have enough land under irrigation. As a matter of fact, the most advanced nation now in irrigation in Central America is Nicaragua -- after the revolution. Nicaragua could be really self-sufficient in the production of beans, rice and corn -- the staples, but every year since the revolution, we have had to import a fourth or fifth of the basic things we need. And that means spending a lot of money.

The other thing is that, since the beginning of the revolution, we have maintained a high level of investment, in relative terms. We have constantly maintained a 20 percent level of national income investment, which is very heavy. No other country of Central America has had this pace. But our investment hasn't matured yet. Our investment in industrial production won't mature for 10 or 15 years. And meanwhile, how will we survive this year when the currency we got by loans at the beginning of the revolution is already spent? We don't get so many loans as before. So we are in a very critical period.

We must be willing to learn the lesson that cooperation may imply compromise, but if it brings a world advance it is a gain for each individual nation.
-- Eleanor Roosevelt, 1946

What about the articles we see about shortages of medical supplies in Nicaragua -- not regular medical supplies, perhaps, but the type of medical supply needs that are directly attributable to war, like artificial limbs? Has that been a problem?

Yes, definitely. We don't produce those. We import all the medicines that we use. Together, public health and education are getting 15 percent of the national budget. Add 40 percent for defense, and you have 55 percent of the national budget. So for the rest, we have only 45 percent. But still, with that effort, we have shortages -- not all the time -- but we have shortages. Sometimes you go and you don't find aspirins for one or two months. Usually they sell aspirins everywhere. And the Ministry of Health has made a very clear policy -- it's very difficult to find insulin in Nicaragua, but it's always easy to find the basic medicines for public health.

So, that brings me to the point where I had a discussion with a friend of mine who is a private doctor. He said he laughed about the Sandinistas when they said health in Nicaragua has improved. He is an internist and he said three or four of his patients have died because you can't get insulin. Okay, maybe getting insulin now is a problem. But how do you compare that with the fact that in four years, we haven't had a single case of any child affected by poliomyelitis? We used to have such a high rate of poliomyelitis.

"That is a very stupid thing," he said. "You just need some shots and that is all."

"Why the hell didn't you do that before?" I asked him. "And the other thing," I told him, "how do you explain that now any person that is sick or whose child is sick, can take him to the closest health center, open 24 hours a day, to get attention?"

The effort of the country is put into public health, and there are degrees of what is most necessary and what is less necessary. In the question of imported medicines, there is a clear classification of what is most needed and what is less needed, for a year or two at least. But I don't think it is a constant situation.

Who are Nicaragua's major trading partners? Are they other Central American countries?

No, Central American countries have never been the major trading partners of other Central American countries. Before the embargo, I guess that 60 or 70 percent of our trade was with the United States. We knew that the embargo would be coming sooner or later, so we started substituting for American goods in import and export. At the time of the embargo, the share of our trade with the United States had declined to only 15 percent. So the impact was heavy, but not as heavy as it

could have been before.

A special impact of the embargo results from the fact that a big part of our industrial capacity is American-made, and for maintenance and repair, we need American parts. We do what we can to get American parts from other countries, but the United States is always trying to prevent that, even threatening Canada and Europe to prevent them from doing that. We have substituted trade with the Eastern European bloc, trade that didn't exist before the revolution, but our main trade is now with Western Europe -- West Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France, Holland, Australia, Norway, Finland, Switzerland.

You know, no country has followed the invitation of the United States to join the embargo. Canada is a bigger trading partner now than it was before, and, of course, all the Third World, including Mexico and Argentina, and some other countries of Africa and Asia that we never had trade with before.

Does Nicaragua have a large foreign debt?

Very big. It is the highest in Central America. The second highest is Costa Rica, which is hard to understand. They don't have a war. Nobody talks about the foreign debt of Costa Rica. Why is it so high? It's almost as high as the Sandinistas' debt, although it is the "showcase of democracy."

Who holds most of Nicaragua's foreign debt?

Of the debt we inherited from Somoza, a big part was with private banks in the United States. But after the revolution, both public and private lending agencies like the World Bank or the Inter-American Bank were really closed to Nicaragua, so we have got bilateral debt with both Western and Eastern European countries, and also private banks in Europe and Japan.

How are your current relations with Honduras?

We have decent trade relations. We have ambassadors on both sides. But there are problems. Nicaragua is constantly protesting the approval of Honduras for military planes of the United States taking off from Honduras to spy on Nicaragua and the constant disruption of contras that have their bases in Honduras. Nicaragua has filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice against Honduras for allowing their territory to be used by the contras against Nicaragua. The Hondurans are really mad about that because they know that when the time comes they will lose the case. The United States can laugh at something like that, but the Hondurans cannot.

Do you think that the American government, as represented by Reagan, really wants peace in Central America?

No. Eighty percent of Nicaraguans don't think that.

Then why do you think Reagan made a peace proposal, had

his own plan for peace in Central America?

Because at the last moment he was trying to shut off the Arias plan. Naturally the Central Americans didn't discuss the Reagan plan, and they didn't discuss the Arias plan. It was a plan just signed there on the table in Guatemala. It's called the Arias plan here, but it was a plan that took into consideration the proposals of each country. Not even Costa Rica talks about the Arias plan.

Was it at that point that the Nicaraguan government decided to negotiate with the contras?

At that moment, there was a compromise among all the countries of Central America that they were going to have a dialogue with their armed oppositions, and Guatemala did a show of talking with its opposition that failed and they never renewed it. El Salvador did another show and Honduras never even made the effort. Only Nicaragua did, and was almost at the verge of signing a peace agreement, but the contras shut that off and Reagan is accusing Nicaragua of being intransigent now.

Tell me about those negotiations.

Nicaragua has very clear and well designed levels of negotiations. The first level is the congressional level. We had elections and the Sandinista front won 64 percent of the seats. The opposition won 35 percent. In congress, they are writing the constitution. That is the first dialogue or discussion that is being held.

The second level is the dialogue with the opposition -- including the 35 percent of the congress and other parties that didn't take part in the elections. The government is ready to say after discussions outside congress: "Okay, we agree that we will recommend to our people in the congress to change this or that in the constitution."

That is a concession of the government. It is a big opportunity for the opposition. The third level was the peace or cease-fire talks with contras and we said to the contras: "We are not going to discuss any constitutional issues with you. The only thing will be, if you will stop fighting and deposit your arms, at that time you will be permitted inside Nicaragua without being molested at all and you can become part of the opposition that is in dialogue with us. That is our promise." But the contras were trying to force the Sandinistas to make changes to the constitution during the peace talks.

The opposition that you have been talking about -- do they represent the interests of the contras?

Of the 35 percent that is the opposition in Congress, I would say that perhaps ten percent are allied with the contras. But now 15 percent more representing the voting community are on the contra side, so I will say possibly that parties that represent the contras are representing 14 or 15 percent of the Nicaraguan

population.

How often are elections held in Nicaragua?

National elections should be held in '90, but the contras are pushing for elections to be advanced. We said "no." We elected a president in formal and legal elections and we are not going to revoke that, because it would be a slap in the face for those who voted for him. I don't think that the people of Nicaragua will stand for all that.

What about the persecution of the Miskito Indians by the Nicaraguan government that we hear about?

At the beginning of the revolution, the government and the Sandinista army made very stupid mistakes about the way they treated the Miskitos. The reason that the Miskitos were treated so badly has to be considered in light of Nicaragua's history. The Miskitos, during the time of Spanish colonization, were allied with the British against the Spaniards. In the last two centuries of the Spanish colonization of Nicaragua, all the cities on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua were attacked and sacked by British and French pirates aided by the Miskito Indians.

At the time of our independence from Spain, England had won some battles with the Spanish and had forced them to accept British exploitation of wood on the Nicaraguan coast. But the British were actually behaving as if it were a British protectorate, and they even organized a whole monarchy of Miskitos in Nicaragua that was recognized by the British king. In the 1860's or so, the United States was very

interested in opening a canal through Nicaragua, so they forced the British to agree to leave Nicaragua. So we got free of the British, but when that part of the country was incorporated into Nicaragua, we were not yet ready to understand the culture of the Miskito Indians and other people on the Pacific coast. And when the Sandinistas came, they treated the Miskitos as they treated the other people on the Pacific coast. There were many people there who were contras, but not in the Miskito region, yet they started to punish them for not following the revolution, even killed people.

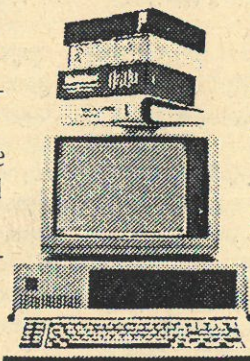
The Miskitos rebelled, and many of them fled to Honduras. The Sandinistas then realized the stupid thing they had done, and have encouraged the Miskitos to come back. Right now, we have an autonomy law for the Miskito region that is the most advanced autonomy law in Latin America or any country in the world with Indian problems. And the Miskitos who have understood this are very much allied with the Sandinistas now. Many of the Miskitos who were fighting with the contras are now coming back and are received by the Sandinistas without being disarmed, and they immediately constitute the Indian militia that is in charge of defending the Indian territory against the contras.

Barbara Grossman is a free-lance writer living in Albany. She is a Senior Associate with Third World Reports.

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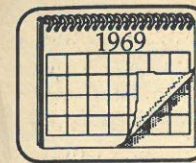
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*See how time makes all grief decay.
— Adelaide Proctor, 1869*

It Was Twenty Years Ago Today . . .

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD invites you to send us observations on the difference between NOW and THEN. We will publish them with your name. As examples, we offer the following:

THEN . . . Playboy was riding high, with pictures of bare-breasted women and interviews with Jean-Paul Sartre, Bertrand Russell, and Madeline Murray. But you couldn't get it at your local drugstore. Playboy clubs were cropping up all over. Every teen-aged boy wanted a membership. Gloria Steinem became a bunny so she could get the inside story. NOW . . . Playboy is on the ropes. Hotter pictures are readily available in dozens of magazines. There are no more Playboy clubs at all and more traditional men's clubs have been forced to admit women as members. No one remembers Madeline Murray, though the religious right continues to fight her issue from the other side. Gloria Steinem is a regular reporter on the Today show.

THEN . . . Japan was an East Asian nation we defeated in World War II and which produced inferior goods. But their transistor radios were OK. NOW . . . Japan owns the consumer electronics industry, is a strong force in the automobile industry, and owns a major portion of our national debt.

THEN . . . We landed men on the moon. The human race took the first step toward transcending the world which had given us birth. NOW . . . NASA is demoralized. But there are persistent hopes for an international alliance which will aim for Mars.

THEN . . . Waiting for the next Beatles release seemed like eternity. NOW . . . Beatles music is played on "oldies" radio stations.

THEN . . . The Cold War was doing strong. We knew that, in fighting in Vietnam we were, indirectly, fighting the Soviet Union and China. NOW . . . We have given diplomatic recognition to mainland China and are entering into various trade agreements with them. The Soviet Union has offered unilaterally to reduce its forces in Europe by ten percent.

THEN . . . Computers were very large and very expensive and very mysterious. NOW . . . Computers are small and can be had for the price of a television set. They are still very mysterious. But they are everywhere, in our watches, our blenders, our offices, our

children's schools.

THEN . . . Recycling was just a gleam in some environmentalist's eye. NOW . . . Recycling is being mandated by New York State law.

THEN . . . Marxism was intellectually viable and the chief Marxist states, the USSR and China, were ideologically militant. NOW . . . Marxism is dead. Its intellectual appeal has withered and the USSR and China are trying to figure out how to abandon it while still preserving their national heros. [Note: This contrast comes from Senator Moynihan's newsletter.]

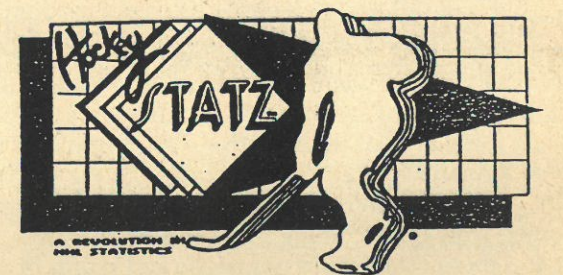
THEN . . . Males grew long hair as a sign of cultural protest. NOW . . . Males cut their hair short as a sign of cultural protest.

THEN . . . Alcohol and heroin were the preferred substances of abuse. NOW . . . Alcohol is still going strong. Heroin has been replaced by cocaine and crack.

THEN . . . Safe sex meant you didn't forget your condom, while 'free love' meant you didn't have to say you're sorry. NOW . . . The fear of AIDS has made monogamy popular.

THEN . . . Most young males tried to avoid the draft. NOW . . . The armed forces rank has swelled as kids want to be 'Top Gun.'

THEN . . . The usual greeting upon meeting new friends was the peace sign. NOW . . . It has been replaced with the business hand shake.



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Lesbian Visibility: We Are Here

by Libby Post

The strength, the grossness, spirit and gall of choice.
—Muriel Rukeyser, 1962

EVERY SO OFTEN, someone actually asks me if I'm gay. And, my usual response is "No, I'm a lesbian."

With this retort, a look of confusion comes over my questioner's face and I begin to explain the subtle (and not so subtle) nuances which differentiate between the lesbian women's and gay men's culture and community. But, more important than our cultural differences, is the underlying need for lesbian visibility within the larger "gay" movement and within society.

All too often, when people think "gay," images of white, gay, affluent, young men come to mind with lesbians thrown in only as an afterthought (if, we're remembered at all). The reality of our community is much more diverse than that -- we are women and men, of all colors, big, little, political, social, middle class, poor, working class and rich; some of us are into antiques or art-deco while others relax in a domain of Indian bedspreads, make-shift lumber and brick shelves, and cast-iron cookware.

Getting over the initial stereotype is the first step to lesbian visibility. Getting over the reluctance to say the word is the second step. Yes, getting the "L" word out of one's mouth can at times be difficult. (And you thought the "L" word was "liberal." Well, we've had a claim on it for quite some time.) At least when you say "gay," it means more than just a man loving a man or a woman loving a woman. "Gay" also means happy -- it's an easier word to say. "Lesbian," on the other hand, means just that -- lesbian. There's no getting around it.

And it's not just the straight folks who have trouble with the word -- plenty of gay men and lesbians have trouble saying it because of the negative aura that has surrounded the word. You know, a lesbian is a bull dyke, a man-hater, queer, a lezzie. If you look it up in Roget's, we're listed under "sexual abnormality" as, once again, an afterthought to homosexuality.

In reality, a lesbian is a woman who loves other women; the concept is defined positively, rather than negatively as "man-hating." But, being a lesbian implies more than our sleeping partner's gender. Being a lesbian is taking control of one's life outside of heterosexual confines and breaking free of those definitions.

We may have men friends, but we don't "need a man to make us complete." We are becoming more and more economically independent despite the odds against us (actually all women) earning a decent living wage. We (some of use, at least) are politically active -- encampments to forge a national lesbian agenda. We are women loving women of all shapes, sizes, races and political persuasions. We are a nation of women who are becoming more and more visible and more and more vocal about our needs and points of view.

Not all of us relate to the word "gay" precisely because we think of ourselves as Lesbians. We've built a culture and a community which speaks to our lives. We have women's

music festivals with lesbian performers who tell lesbian jokes, sing lesbian love songs and promote lesbian crafts. We have journals devoted solely to the formation of lesbian ethics. We have publishing companies which print only lesbian fiction and fact. Any, yes, we even have lesbian erotica (for the more daring in the community).

This is not to say that the lesbian community is tantamount to heaven. We have our problems just like other communities -- but, the key here is that we exist and we thrive. It is *our* community.

And, we are different from gay men and deserve that recognition. So the next time you think about gay rights, think "lesbian and gay rights." Or, when you talk about the gay community, say the "lesbian and gay community." Or, when you ask a woman if she's gay, ask her, instead, if she's a lesbian.

Libby Post is the co-chair of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby.

Bittersweet in found design:

circle word hand embellished

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its over & over ending is one

dual note in crystal claret body

this musing flare design's bouquet

handing the chosen ripe fruit

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Sally Joyce Benzon

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Child Care: An Action Agenda

by Louis Stoney

Our ultimate goal as a nation should be to make available comprehensive, developmental child-care services to all families that wish to use them.
—Mary Keyserling, 1972

THAT WOMEN ARE ENTERING the work force in record numbers is without question. That an overwhelming majority of these women are mothers and either single heads of households or contributing significantly to the family income has also been well documented. Bureau of Labor statistics indicate that the number of working married mothers with infants one-year old or younger has increased by 119% since 1970; the Children's Defense Fund predicts that if current trends continue, by 1995 over two-thirds of all pre-school children and three-fourths of all school-age children will have mothers in the workforce.

Yet in spite of the increasing number of working mothers, in spite of the growing demand for child care, our government has failed to provide families with the supports they need to secure affordable, high quality child care. Rather than take responsibility for planning and developing a comprehensive child care system, we have allowed child care services to grow in an almost haphazard fashion and have convinced parents that finding and paying for child care is their responsibility alone. It should come as no surprise that what has resulted is a "fragmented, confusing, essentially patchwork" system which fails to serve the large number of children who need care.

In recent years the New York State legislature has begun to recognize the importance of developing a statewide child care service delivery system and has significantly increased expenditure for child care services. Although the \$55 million 1988-89 appropriation for child care could meet only a small portion of the need, many of us felt that New York had begun to make an important contribution to what we thought

would be the Decade of the Child.

Given this history, child care advocates were shocked to see that Governor Cuomo's proposed 1988-89 budget cut funding for child care programs and services by nearly 30%. Cuts in child care, as well as in a number of human services, were justified by the combination of a

budget shortfall and the Governor's concern that increased taxes will threaten the economic viability of our state.

However, in a recent policy paper on child care and the economy, Barbara Reismann, Executive Director of the Child Care Action Campaign, argues that our economy is in fact weakened by the state's failure to invest in family support services such as child care. Government support for child care should no longer be viewed as simply a moral responsibility -- part of our larger commitment to assisting poor children and families -- but rather as an economic necessity. In order to improve productivity, and sustain economic growth, New York State must make a significant investment in child care.

The bottom line is that parents can't work productively without child care. Welfare recipients (largely women with young

children) can't get jobs without child care. And our children can't grow to be well-educated, productive members of the labor force without high quality child care.

Dozens of reports -- including those released by the Committee for Economic Development and by the New York State Department of Civil Service -- have warned that the shrinking supply of workers poses a real threat to our state's economic development. These reports indicate that future growth depends upon our ability to attract new workers into the labor force and to increase the productivity of those currently working. Coupled



Olansen

Cuomo's 1988-89 Budget cuts child care by nearly 30%

with predictions that women will continue to comprise a significant percentage of new entrants into the labor force, it becomes clear that child care is a key element in efforts to spur economic growth in New York State.

In addition to the pressures posed by a shrinking labor supply, the child care crisis will be fueled by new federal welfare reform policies. Over the next five years New York State will be required to enroll welfare recipients with children three years old and older in job programs. The State must also ensure that these families receive a host of support services, including child care. Given the fact that New York State currently has little more than 165,000 spaces in licensed child care programs to serve the estimated 830,000 preschool and school-age children who need care while their parents work — that is, we meet less than 20% of the current need — where are we going to find child care for the thousands of welfare recipients who will now be entering the workforce? Clearly, investing in the development of new resources is the only alternative.

Funds spent on child care are indeed an investment. The United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families reports that every \$1 spent on early childhood education programs saves \$4.75 in future costs of remedial education, welfare, and crime. Studies by other groups show savings of as much as \$7 for every \$1 invested in child care. Investments in child care services also return significant funds through the generation of taxes and the participation of day care providers in the purchase of goods and services in the local economy. The Child Care Council of Westchester, for example, found that every \$1 invested in child care in their county returned \$5.25 to the local economy.

Child care advocates typically argue that funding for child care services can — and should — come from a variety of

public and private sources. Indeed, we are seeing a slow but steady increase in employer supported child care initiatives. The concept of a public/private partnership implies, however, that the public sector will pick up its share of the tab. For too long our federal, state, and local governments have failed to commit significant resources to early childhood education programs. The Committee on Economic Development reports, for example, that in 1986 \$246 billion was allocated through the federal Department of Education to fund educational services for children aged 6 or older, yet only \$1 billion was made available for services to children under the age of 5.

It is time for our government's priorities to change. To this end the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council has developed an action agenda which requests funding to help parents pay for child care as well as to improve the quality and expand the supply of a variety of child care programs and services. Over 200 organizations are working with us to promote that agenda. In addition, we have joined with advocates from across the county to call for a federal commitment to child care and passage of the Act for Better Child Care.

To find out how you can help promote our agenda, contact NYSCCCC at 237 Bradford St., Albany NY 12206, 463-8663. The New York State Women's political caucus will be hosting a women's lobby day (with support for day care as a top priority) on March 14th. For further information, call Margo at 283-8416 (eves).

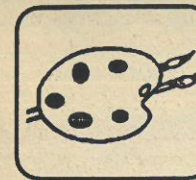
Louise Stoney is Policy and Program Director for the New York State Child Care Coordinating Council, and a member of the Capital District Women's Political Caucus.

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Touchstones: The Art of Harry Orlyk

by Bill Benzon

One cannot remain the same. Art is a mirror which should show many reflections, and the artist should not always show the same face, or the face becomes a mask.

— Yvette Guilbert, 1902

IT WAS BY accident that I came to view the recent Harry Orlyk exhibit at the Albany Center Galleries. Yes, I knew it was there — I do, after all, read Metroland and I'm on the gallery's mailing list. I was aware of Orlyk's local reputation. But I figured that was mostly just local boosterism, that Orlyk was good, but not so good that I *had* to see the show.

However, my band played a reception at the Albany Center Galleries and Orlyk's paintings were still hanging the evening of the gig. I walked into the gallery shortly after 5 PM — the caterer's staff was bustling around with tables, chairs, and food, the band's roadies were setting up the equipment, and I sensed a strange luminosity in the room's light. I looked around and saw the walls covered with small paintings. That, I sensed, was the source of the luminosity.

I was right. Harry Orlyk's paintings, even when they are austere and almost monochromatic, are luminous. Not with a light which could be measured with a photometer, but with a light which is seen in the eye's mind. Such luminosity comes from a sure and exacting knowledge of how to balance colors one against the other so that they set up subtle vibrations within the picture space. The cumulative effect of this luminosity radiating from 150 or so small paintings was so strong that I picked it up in the general atmosphere of the room as soon as I entered.

Most artists rarely achieve such luminosity. For Orlyk it seems to be a routine accomplishment.

ALL PAINTINGS must be examined at two levels — that of subject matter, and that of physical manipulation of the medium. Let's begin our examination of Orlyk's work with a consideration of how he handles the medium. The way he mixes his paints on the palette, loads his brush, and strokes it onto the canvas — that is where Orlyk's mastery begins.

Oil paints — Orlyk's medium — come in tubes. When taken directly from the tube, oil paints are roughly the consistency of toothpaste. One generally does not apply them directly from the tube to the canvas. Rather, the paints are thinned by mixing with some solvent (turpentine is the most common) and exact colors prepared by mixing different paints with one another. Thus the artist might have five, six, eight, or ten different colors of paint squeezed onto the palette and then achieve an infinite number of colors through mixing.

For example, one can create green by mixing yellow and blue. The exact shade depends, of course, on the relative proportions and on the shades of the yellow and blue used in the mixture. One can mix the colors so thoroughly that the resulting green is thoroughly homogeneous. With a less thorough mix the hue of the green will vary and it may even be flecked with bits of yellow and blue — not to mention the white or brown or lavender which may have gone into the

mix as well.

If one looks at an Orlyk sky, say, a blue-gray one, one can see streaks of other colors — perhaps a little red, or blue, or white. Such effects are ubiquitous and so skillful and consistent that one can be sure they are deliberate. Orlyk has worked his eyes and fingers into the physical stuff of his art, and that is where his art begins.

Orlyk also exerts control over the thickness of his paint. In some works (such as the recent "The Borden Machinery Garage") the paint is applied in an impasto so thick that Orlyk signs the picture by carving his name into the paint. The pattern of highlights created as light plays on the surface of such a painting becomes part of the composition.

In other paintings Orlyk uses so much thinner in his pigment that the paint becomes a thin wash, almost like watercolor — for example, the impressive "Double Image on the Birth of my First Child." Here and there in such paintings one can see small delicate fern-like patterns created when relatively dense eddies of pigment bleed and flow through pools of thinner. Perhaps Orlyk used a lot of thinner when mixing paint on the palette, perhaps he dipped his brush in thinner after he loaded it with pigment and before he applied it to the canvas.

Just exactly what he did is not important. What is important is that he deliberately did something, and that such deliberation is so deeply ingrained in him that it has become the automatic foundation of his style. Without this the luminosity is impossible. For Orlyk, paint is clearly not just a physical substance used to create images and whose properties are to be subordinated to the representational demands of those images. Orlyk understands and respects the physical integrity of his medium. He creates images *in* and *from* the medium; the representation flows from the possibilities inherent in the paint. The feeling we get from an Orlyk painting stems as much from our immediate awareness of color and texture as it does from our recognition of and response to the particular subjects he paints.

MOVING TO a consideration of those subjects, we can begin with excerpts from the statement he wrote for the exhibition catalogue: "There is such sadness in the way some things look, or in the way I see them. In things lonely, austere, declining, passing away, there is sadness. . . . There is nothing I can do about our diminishing open spaces other than to paint something that expresses they way I feel. Often it is the painting itself that defines how I feel and if I did not make it I would not know. . . . So often this feeling bares empathy for subject, or what the subject may represent. So, my work is about having

empathy."

Mostly Orlyk has painted mostly rural scenes, images of a world which is foreign to most of us, of a world which is lost, images of, as he says, "diminishing open spaces." His art, however, is not a nostalgic celebration of Edenic innocence. It is too hard-edged and rigorous for that. One can feel the sadness and the loss but there is no feeling that it would be desirable to recover what has been lost, no desire to return.

Orlyk's assertion that the sadness he depicts may lie in the way he sees things is suggestive. For one could argue that sadness has pervaded our culture at least since the Renaissance; we all see the world through blue colored glasses. Hamlet, the melancholy Dane, was recognized as a prototypical Renaissance man. Robert Burton's *The Anatomy of Melancholy* was a 17th Century best-seller and it was selling well into the 19th Century. The sentimentality which runs so broadly through our popular culture is but an escape from sadness — after shedding a sentimental tear, we smile, and continue on about our daily rounds. Sentimentality, however, relieves sadness at the price of leaving us alone. It's images, forms, concepts, and rhythms have no strength.

In thus calling upon sadness Orlyk taps wells driven deep in our culture's psyche. But Orlyk is a memorialist, not a sentimentalist. The wonderful luminosity of his paintings, considered as physical objects, has as much force as the associations set off by his subjects — a house with a widow watch, a prison, a carnival at night, a bridge, and so forth. That luminosity disciplines our associations and provides a conduit for the empathy which is so important to Orlyk. Through that empathy we can get, momentarily, beyond ourselves.

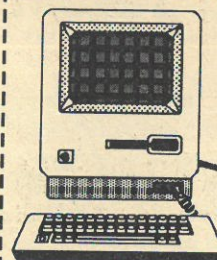
Orlyk doesn't relieve our sadness, as the sentimentalist does. Rather, he brings it to the surface and stops it in place. His paintings allow us to relive the sadness and, in so doing, to move beyond it. It thus perhaps no accident that Orlyk's more recent paintings are more highly colored and more vigorously textured than his older work.

Perhaps Orlyk is moving beyond the sadness.

He is such a gifted artist that his paintings will surely help us to do so as well.

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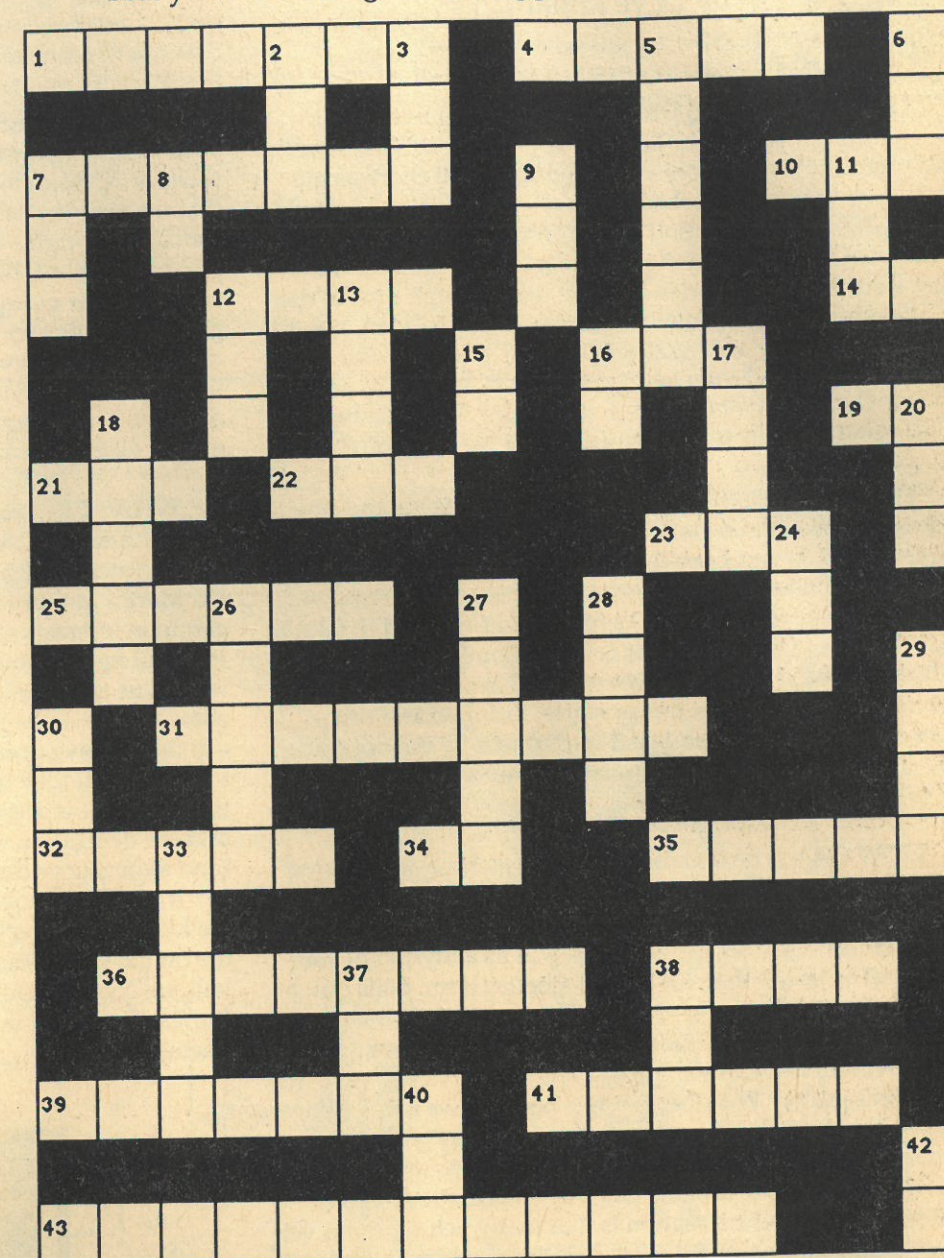
ACROSS

1. Dave breaks these almost every night.
4. Cue Card holder.
7. Dave's sidekick (last name).
10. Not ABC, but...
12. _____ Wendell, announcer.
14. Dave has a feud going with this fellow (initials).
16. Hasn't appeared in Dave's show yet.
19. Dave follows him (initials).
21. Always on Dave's desk.
22. Dave's "Top _____ List."
23. Dave's "Stupid _____ Tricks."
25. Paul's brand of keyboard.
31. The "most _____ Band."
32. Drummer's first name.
34. "____ O My." One of Dave's sayings.
35. Dave smokes this (but he should quit).
36. Will's (Bass player) brand of Amp.
38. Friday night brings "Viewer's _____."
39. Dave throws these behind him (early days).
41. Paul's home country.
43. "Home office."

DOWN

2. Monday is Dave's day _____.
3. His staff calls him _____.
5. One of our favorite tricks.
6. Dave's show originates from _____.
7. Lead guatarist's first name.
8. Stage hands first name.
9. How many guest chairs?
11. Dave's dog _____.
12. Another Stage hand.
13. "_____ Night."
15. Dave's show starts in the _____.
16. Dave's real boss.
17. You can call him _____.
18. "Stupid _____ Tricks."
20. "Monkey-_____."
24. Dave replaced him (first name).
26. This was David's last stand (oops, that was David CROCKETT)

27. _____ "Bud" Melman
28. Color of Dave's furniture.
29. Dave has problems with this.
30. Dave's former boss.
33. When Dave doesn't drive, he takes the _____.
37. _____ Gurnee.
38. Rerun night (abbreviate).
40. 4 and 3 equals the _____ of years Dave's been on.
42. Dave lives here (abbreviate).



by Don Rittner
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HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

MARCH, 1989

MARCH, 1989



The Invisible Foe: The Battle for Veteran's Rights in the 80's and 90's.

by Dave Millard

THE JUNGLE WAS DENSE and morning rain sifted down through 100 feet of lush canopy overhead. The heat and humidity made every step a monumental chore as the platoon of riflemen "pushed the bush." Suddenly the jungle was shattered by the sound of automatic weapons fire and the roar of RPG's exploding in the trees. The ensuing fire-fight lasted only 8 minutes — more than enough time to die.

Die they did, and so did "Charlie." They saw his blood trails, and sometimes a shattered corpse. Every soldier who faced "Charlie" in battle had great respect for him as an enemy. He was smart, determined, and brave. Most clashes happened without ever seeing the enemy. It was as though one were fighting ghosts.

The ongoing fight to preserve veteran's rights and programs on different levels is very much like a jungle ambush. On the one side you have the veterans themselves, fighting to hold ground taken in previous skirmishes, even daring to move out from time to time, fighting hand-to-hand to take a little more. As veterans in this country number more than 28 million, it would seem that this formidable army would be able to overcome almost any obstacle. But time and time again they are mauled and sent into retreat by the opposing forces, a small but tenacious guerilla army at home in the legal jungles of Washington, D.C.

HOW CAN it be possible that we (veterans) are losing ground in the battle to retain our entitlements, programs, and benefits? The answer is simple: We do not perceive ourselves as "veterans." Instead, we see ourselves as a myriad of sub-groups of veterans that, for lack of a better term, boils down to a set of special interest groups. Each group is hell-bent for leather to preserve or promote its virtues while losing sight of the over-all issue of VETERANS rights.

Who's guilty? We all are. Why? Because we are no longer a homogenous fighting unit with one task, one goal, in mind: Victory. We have reverted to our civilian roots of diversity, the right of choice & dissent. Guilt by dissociation I call it. The sad reality of the situation is that many veterans and veterans organizations spend too much time belittling each other for petty inconsequential reasons and not enough time addressing the real issues.

Another problem is that the majority of veterans organizations fight the battle by the enemy's rules, often finding themselves in precarious situations or being the victims of blackmail. This compromises their ability to function as advocates at the highest levels of government. Maintaining cozy relationships with the V.A. and with the House veterans committee lead to compromising of one's integrity so that it is difficult to act objectively on behalf of veterans.

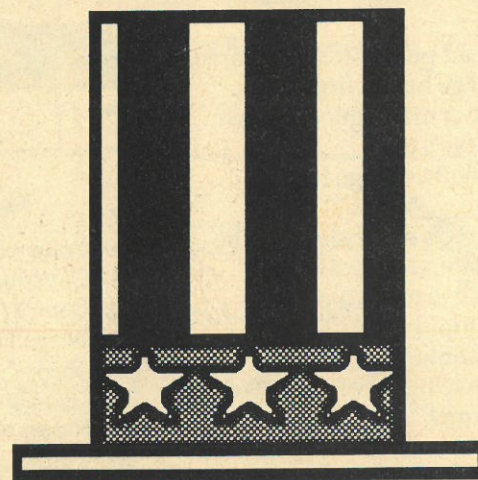
This was shown clearly during the fight for veterans judi-

The belief that we some day shall be able to prevent war is to me one with the belief in the possibility of making humanity really human.
—Ellen Key, 1924

cial review. For years the majority of veterans organizations fought against the right of a veteran to take a disputed V.A. claim to a court for review, despite the fact that the majority of individual veterans felt that they should have rights of access to the courts at least comparable to felons, illegal aliens, Social Security petitioners, and other groups. One veterans organization never gave up the fight or sold out to the power that be, and in 1988 Judicial Review became law. Ironically enough, the organizations that fought judicial review tooth and nail now hold themselves up as champions of this hard-fought victory for all veterans.

WHAT DO veterans really need? The answer is simple: A leader. Not a commander or a president. We need a veteran who is of the same caliber and mettle as Dr. Martin Luther King. A veteran who can show us our common interests and fuse us into a single-minded unit that will fight for our common good. A veteran who will all us to put aside our long history of infighting and show us how to be proud of the word "veteran" without the divisive prefixes. A veteran who will rekindle the spirit that took us to induction centers and make that spirit glow anew, relighting the fire of patriotism and the dedication to never leave one of our own behind suffering or dead.

If we do not soon awaken to this reality, the system we fought to protect will swallow us up or leave us to die on the vine. Who's to blame? We are. Our epitaph will be: They fought for Freedom, Democracy, and Rights; They died in submission to an Invisible Foe — Themselves.



Poisoned Warrior Project: Rensselaer County Provides Substance Instead of Rhetoric

by Dave Millard

THE AGENT ORANGE buck has come to rest in Rensselaer County. As of January 1st any Vietnam veteran in Rensselaer County who feels that he has suffered from exposure to chemical herbicides used in Vietnam can apply to the Rensselaer County Veteran's Service Agency for testing that will determine the residual amount of Dioxin remaining in the veteran's system. All Vietnam veterans are asked to join this study if they are now residents of Rensselaer County.

Rensselaer county's "Poisoned Warrior Project" has four objectives:

1) To provide the veteran with positive proof of residual Dioxin levels in his system, affording the veteran some peace of mind about the origin of his health problems.

2) To provide evidence for compensatory claims against the Federal Government's Veterans Administration against the time when such claims are recognized by Congress and the V.A.

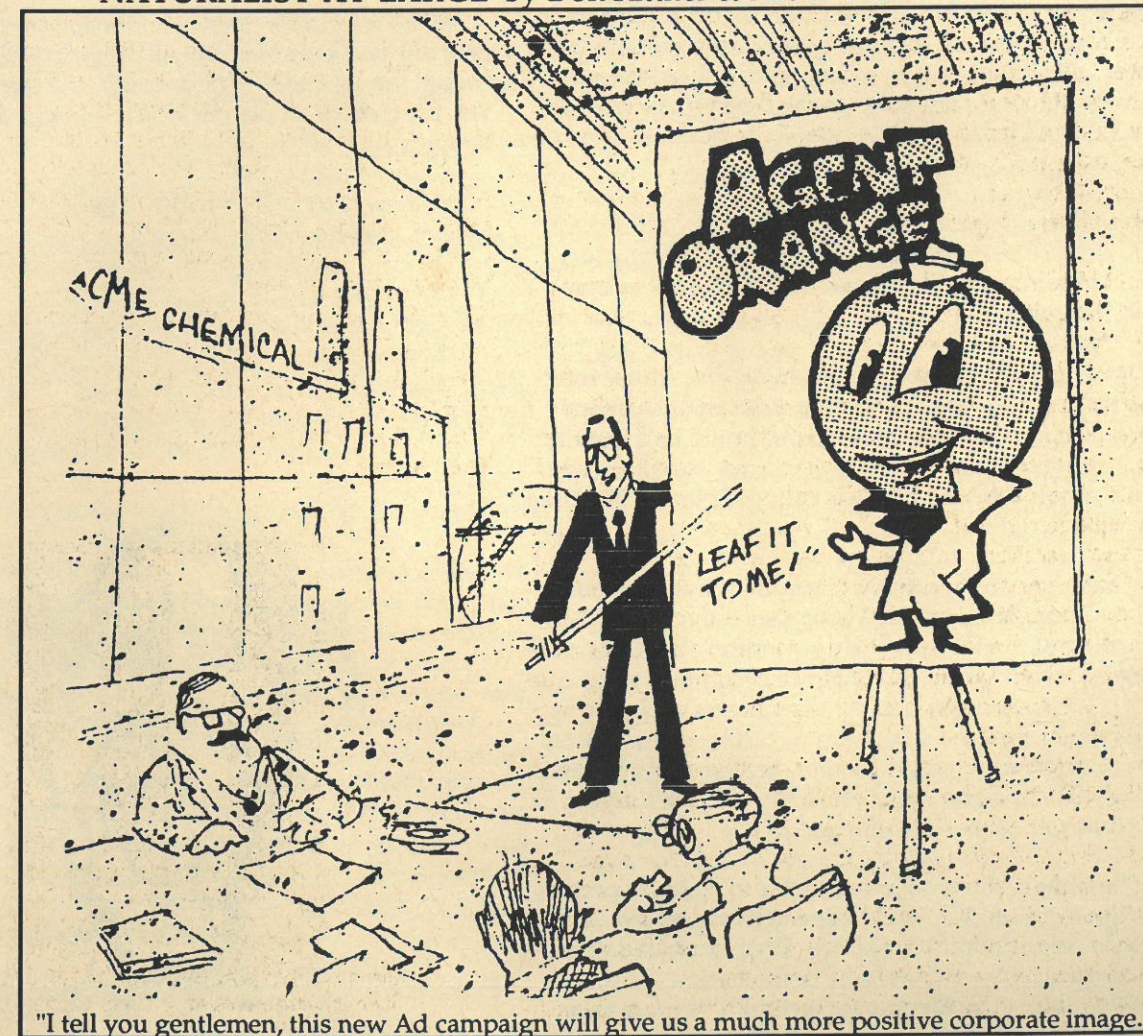
3) Provide information for toxicology research to be done by independent organizations which do genuine research — unlike Federal studies which provide answers and then do research to back up their contentions.

4) To provide a "frozen archive" of biopsies which can be the basis of future research.

The ultimate success of the program is, unfortunately, held hostage to the final determination of the Federal Government regarding its responsibility for having poisoned its own troops in battle. When this day comes the fruits of the "Poisoned Warrior Project" will ripen and be harvested. From beyond their flag-drapped caskets, these veterans will achieve justice and peace as their spouses and children are allowed to have the benefits owed to them by the Federal Government.

To sign up for the project, contact Dave Millard at 270-2760 during business hours. Welcome Home.

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Through the Looking Glass: Dear America

by Geoff Parsons

Certain rights can never be granted to the government, but must be kept in the hands of the people.
Eleanor Roosevelt, 1948

Dear America,

Greetings from England are subdued this month -- too many disasters have befallen the world since I last set my hand to the Word processor to send you my thoughts from this side of the "Pond."

After the "earthquake" we had our own tragedy with a train crash but then to put a damper on Christmas came the tragic crash of Pan Am 103 over Scotland.

We were all shocked and sickened by the idea, which has subsequently proved true, that it was a terrorist bomb which caused this crash. A wide gamut of emotions spread through our media -- shock, pity, sympathy, fear, then hate and revenge. A change is gradually coming over our emotions and many people are now worried that the reaction of the U.S.A. will promote a revenge of such a magnitude that more lives will be lost. It is to be hoped that the revulsion that all right thinking people felt at the time will be international and that all nations will be joining in outlawing terrorist activities.

We are all afraid that the old strength of the "Wild West," the quick draw syndrome, might take over. With any luck the more stable voices will be heard and a Way other than force will be found.

That is enough of the gloom -- or is it? Now we are treated to the prospect of a trade war over meat with hormone treatment. The feeling here is that there should be a right to choose. This would mean that the consumer should have the right to know what he or she is eating. Enforced labelling would give this right.

There has been no complete independent information given as to the cumulative effect of eating such foods and therefore it is difficult to make up one's own mind about this matter. It seems more and more things are becoming dangerous to ingest. Of course if we were all to go back to only eating pure organically grown foods there would be many shortages. The manufacturers would have us believe that starvation would ensue. I am a great believer in my Granny's saying "a little of what you fancy does you good."

Our Christmas, of course, was similar to yours, especially since eighty per cent of our television viewing consists of ready-made imports from the U.S.A. We have had a very mild Christmas with temperatures in the sixties. However the idiot box (aka "The Electronic Cyclops", "Square Face Skull Deadener", "Telly", and "The Box") provided so much

snow that we felt adequately compensated for the moderate weather.

It is always amazing to me that normally intelligent people can be so swayed by what they see on television. I suppose they are the same persons who believe all they read in the Press. Our press is going through a personality crisis. More and more of our papers being taken over by Press Barons and it seems that editorial freedom is being stifled. Some of these so-called Barons are, I see, well entrenched in your media. I cannot think that these large press empires can be good for individual thought. The only thought which encourages me when this idea becomes too black is that the human race has always produced free thinkers when they're needed most.

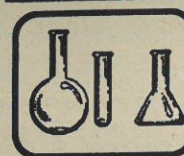
We all hope for a greater understanding between, not only our two countries, but all others in 1989. It is hard enough for us and we speak nearly the same language. Yet, the faces of all people look the same when they're happy.

For now, that's all from the land of your mother tongue. "Till next time.

Regards,
Geof Parsons,
Southampton,
England



Olansen



Science and Technology Digest

Compiled by Bill Benzon

I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy.
Marie Curie, 1923

From the Pages of *Science*

Science is the weekly journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). It publishes both technical articles in all scientific fields and news about scientific topics and policy. This column will feature excerpts and summaries of articles from *Science* and other periodicals.

"Bomb Factories of the 21st Century," by Eliot Marshall, vol. 243: p. 305, 20 January 1989.

On January 12 the Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a report to Congress which estimated that it will cost \$244 billion to keep nuclear weapons factories in operation for the next 20 years. It will cost \$25 billion dollars to deal with 40 years of accumulated nuclear waste while an estimated \$32 billion will have to be spent on environmental restoration.

"Prevalence and Patterns of Same-Gender Sexual Contact Among Men," by Robert E. Fay et al., vol. 243: pp. 338 -- 348, 20 January 1989.

A national survey conducted in 1970 [we know, that's awhile ago, but it's more recent than the Kinsey data, which was collected between 1938 and 1948, and on which much of our knowledge about patterns of sexual contact is based, eds.] showed that at least 20.3 percent of adult US males had an orgasm from same-sex contact some time during life; 6.7 percent had such contact after age 8. At least 3.3 percent of adult men had same-gender contact "fairly often" or "occasionally." The number of men with 5 or more male partners is a small fraction of the number of men who have had sexual experience with other males.

"Overhaul Urged for Math Teaching" by Gregory Byrne, vol. 243: p. 597, 3 February 1989.

The National Research Council has issued a report which says that American students are the victims of poor math teaching that emphasizes pencil-and-paper computation at the expense of calculator and computer skills, rote memorization at the expense of realistic problem solving and high level conceptual skill, and multiple-choice tests. Women and minorities are particularly victimized, keeping them from entering scientific professions. Math education must be restructured from kindergarten through college. About 60% of college math courses repeat material taught (but unlearned) in high school while U.S. industry spends as much on remedial math training for employees as is spent in schools and colleges combined.

"Africa is Becoming an Elephant Graveyard," by William Booth, vol. 732: p. 597, 10 February 1989.

Africa has lost half its elephants in the last decade, with

only perhaps 700,000 left -- estimates are uncertain. The cause: illegal poaching to get elephant ivory (the carcasses are left to rot). 80% of the ivory on world market is illegal. African states are aware of and concerned about the problem but "Decades of civil unrest left a legacy of heavy weaponry in Africa. Poachers are sophisticated and well armed. The park rangers lack morale and support. For \$25 a month, who wants to confront a small army of determined men with automatic weapons?"

"How Fast Can Trees Migrate," by Leslie Roberts, vol. 243: pp. 735 -- 737, 10 February 1989.

If current predications about greenhouse warming are correct, then many forests in the United States are in danger, with many now-abundant trees becoming extinct. "Nationwide, EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] foresees a substantial loss of healthy forest area, which now accounts for 33% of U.S. land area, and a net reduction in forest productivity for several centuries. . . . New England coniferous forests would be replaced by hardwoods, especially by oak. Southern pines might shift into the hardwood forests of eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey." To save many of the threatened species Margaret Davis and Catherine Zabinski, EPA-funded ecologists, call for the recreation of entire forest ecosystems in northern locations.

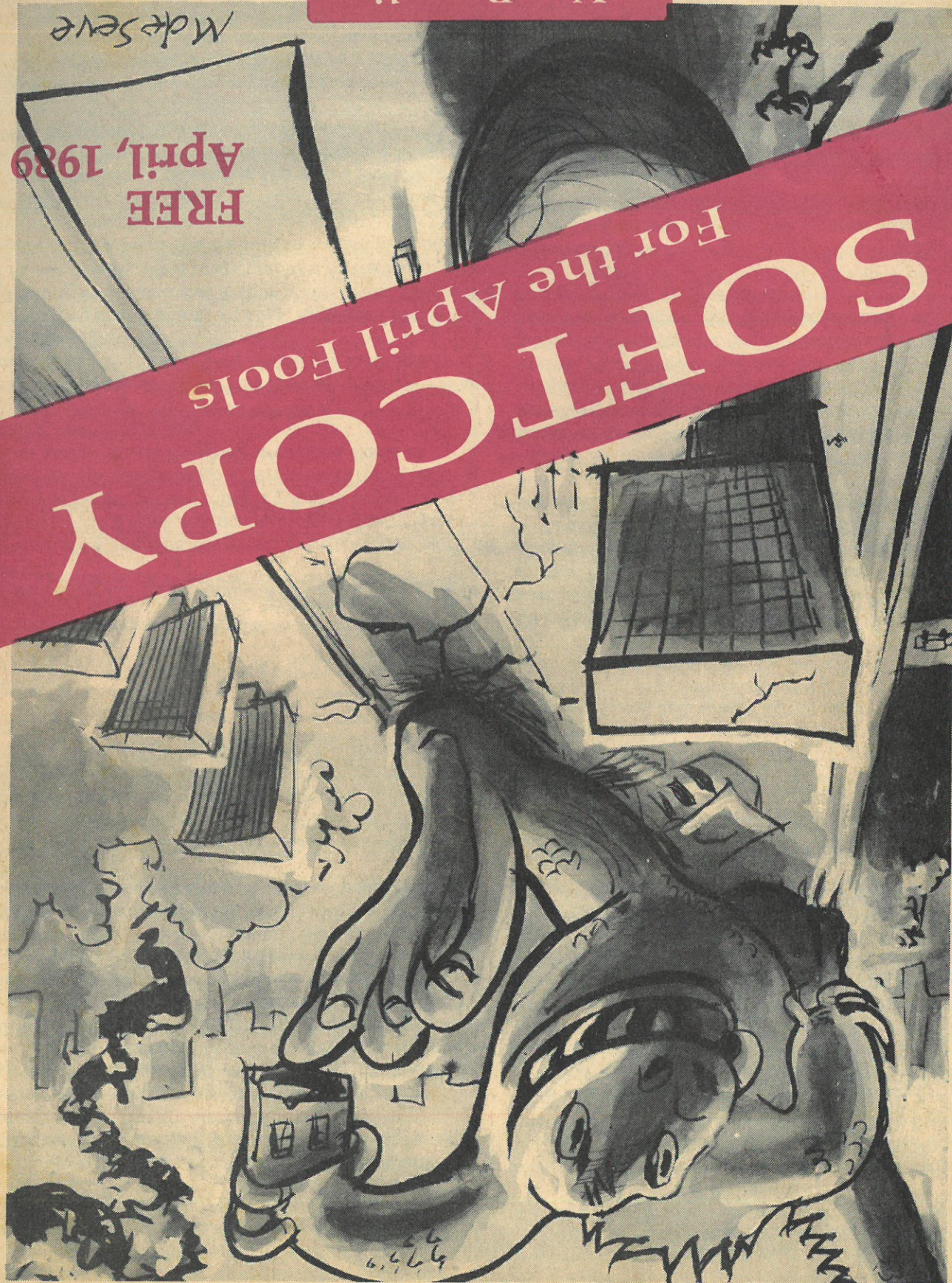
"CIA Details Chemical Weapons Spread," by Colin Norman, vol. 243: p. 888, 17 February 1989.

The director of the CIA, William Webster, gave testimony to the Senate Committee of Government Operations that Western companies have facilitated the spread of chemical weapons to Libya, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Since the early 1980s Iraq has produced several thousand tons of mustard gas and the nerve agents tabun and sarin. Syria and Iran began producing chemical warfare agents in the mid-1980s; both have a variety of agents, including nerve agents. Webster noted that Libya's complex near Rabta "may be the single largest chemical warfare agent production plant in the Third World." The plant was built with German assistance while the Japanese aided in the construction of a nearby plant to manufacture bomb and artillery components.

"Wanted: Normal Brains," by Barbara J. Culliton, vol. 243: p. 889, 17 February 1989.

"Brain-watchers in Massachusetts and California want you -- eventually, that is. They desperately want your brain -- if it is normal -- for research on diseases including Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and schizophrenia."

Godzilla Speaks out on Albany's Art District



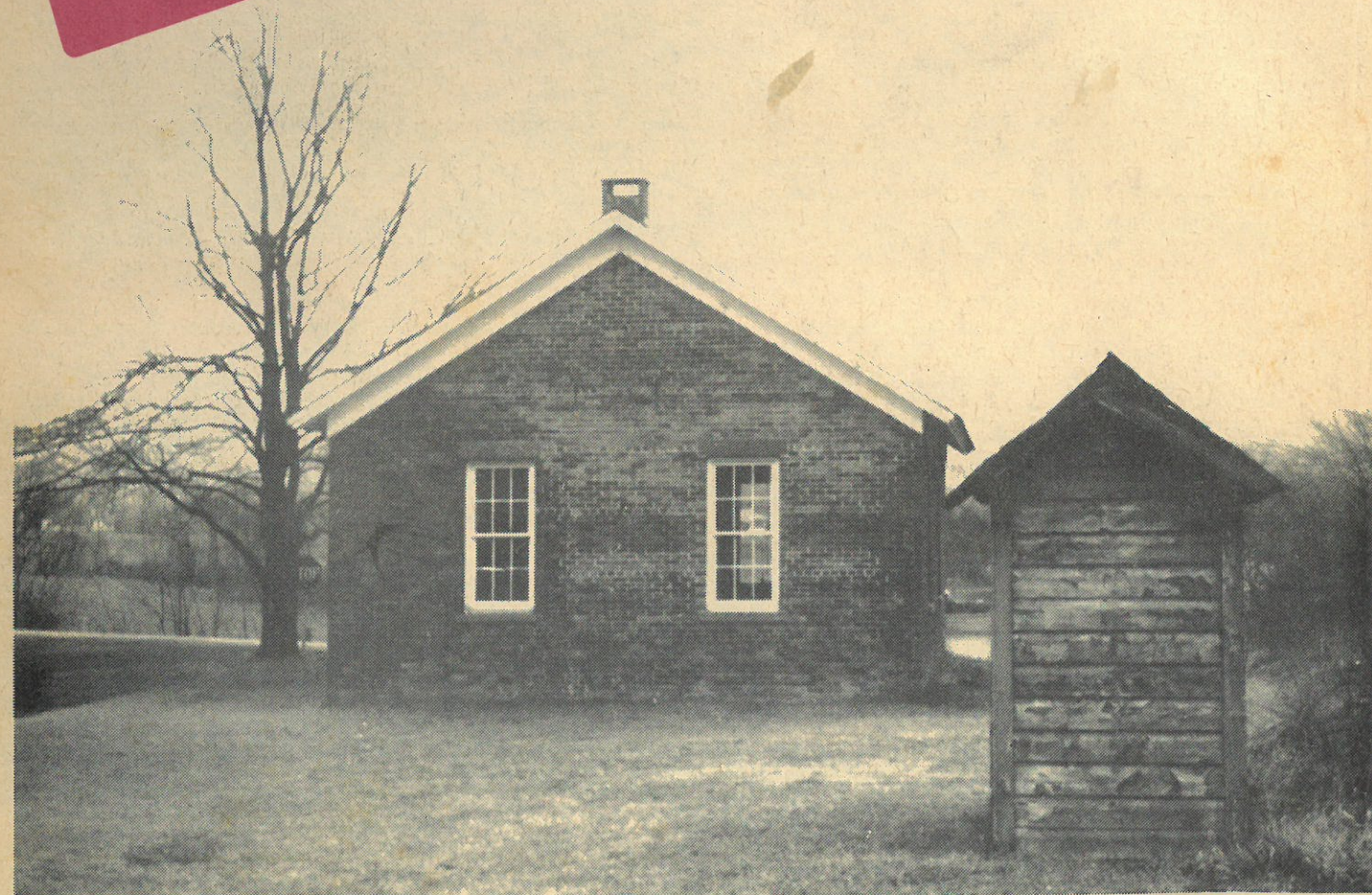
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HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD provides a public
forum on all issues and therefore viewpoints are those of the
authors, not necessarily those of
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COVER PHOTO: "Lincoln Academy." One-room schoolhouse
in Brunswick, New York. Many people received their
education this way during the first half of the 20th century.
Education is now being offered via satellite and digital
communication networks. See story on page 11.
Photo by Don Rittner.

The editors would like to note the passing of
Sugar Ray Robinson and Abbie Hoffman.
Both fought for their own forms of justice.

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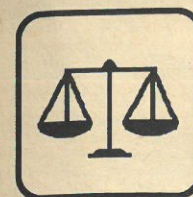
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EDITORIAL



"Something's Happening Here..."

*Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without
newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a mo-
ment to prefer the latter.*
—Thomas Jefferson

The protest movements and counter-culture activities of the 60s began in the 50s, with the Civil Rights Movement. African Americans' insistence on full and equal participation in our democracy became the vehicle which catalyzed other segments of our society into questioning and protest.

Similarly, the Pro-Choice Movement and the Environmentalists are going to catalyze opposition activities in the 90s. These two issues are quite different, but neither is going to disappear.

Consider, first, abortion. The Supreme Court is going to have to render a decision in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services of Missouri*. If the decision should do nothing to reverse the gains made in *Roe v. Wade* then the conflict on abortion will continue much as it is. With one significant difference. The recent march in Washington will surely solidify the pro-choice forces. No matter what the Supreme Court decides, the pro-choice forces are now stronger than they were before the march.

If the Supreme Court should act to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, then the fight will be intensified at the state level. The pro-life forces will have won a victory. But the pro-choice forces, drawing on their newly strengthened solidarity, will multiply their efforts in these state-level conflicts. A conservative victory on the national level will thus intensify opposition on the state level, where it is easier to organize. No matter how the battles go state by state, the intensified political effort will inevitably spill over to other issues.

The abortion issue is thus a political snowball. The social forces which are now in motion are not going to be stayed by the upcoming Supreme Court decision. No matter what happens, the issue will grow and grow, gaining more momentum, involving more people. And, like Topsy (to switch metaphor in mid-stream), other issues will become stuck to it.

Then there is the environment. In the Capital District we face decisions about two burn-to-energy plants, one in the Port of Albany, and one in Waterford. And there is, as always, the Pine Bush. Nationally, our attention has been captured by the Alaskan oil spill. If the upcoming summer is like last summer, or worse, then we will have an unrelenting message about damage to the upper atmosphere. The problem of environmental destruction has now reached the point where it is present to all of us, whether we wish to face it or not.

In New York State municipalities are under pressure to initiate recycling programs. Those of us who are not now separating our waste at home will, in year or two, begin doing it. This is not a big thing, but it will be a constant reminder of the waste problem, and of that fact that, in separating our garbage, we are doing something about the problem. That activity will, for many, be the first step on the

thousand mile journey to the raised political consciousness which is the only hope for creating sound environmental policy.

It is difficult to predict how the political forces gathering about these two issues, abortion and environment, will interact, for the issues are so different. Abortion is, for all concerned, a gut-level issue. While the environment has been, until quite recently, abstract. Dealing with the environment will require international cooperation, while abortion seems confined to the nation.

Yet, the abortion issue also involves our capacity to tolerate other ways of life. If we cannot tolerate different cultural attitudes and practices within our own society on issues such as abortion, then how can we deal with other societies and cultures on the issue of the environment? And, if we cannot care for the integrity of the natural world, does that not somehow diminish our concern for the life of an unborn fetus?

Finally, both issues have one thing in common. Both demand that we make deliberate choices about matters which our forefathers had thought were outside our sphere of control. Medical science has given us a level of control over ourselves and our bodies which is unprecedented. Our cultural progenitors didn't have the power to intervene that we have and therefore they didn't create attitudes and concepts adequate to making modern medical decisions. The pro-life forces wish to remain bound by the ignorance of their ancestors.

Similarly, our predecessors had no understanding of how organisms interact with their environment and, even as city streets became deep with refuse and the prairies became bereft of buffalo, they had no way of understanding the large-scale destructive impact of human commerce on the natural environment. And so their attitudes toward development and industry did not allow for such effects. Now, we know better. But that knowledge has yet to deeply influence our nation's policies and activities. If we continue to be bound by past attitudes, we will, like the dinosaurs, perish.

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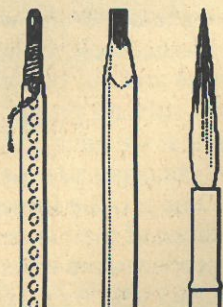
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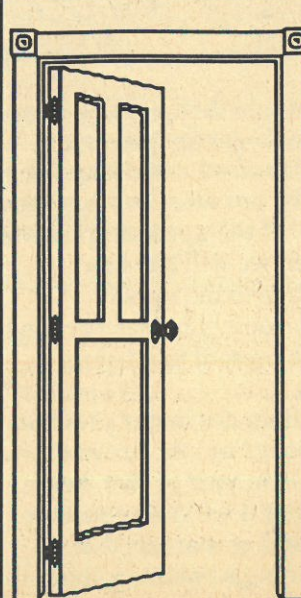
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LETTERS to the Editor

"That's rather a sudden pull up, ain't it, Sammy? inquired Mr. Weller. 'Not a bit on it,' said Sam; 'she'll wish there was more, and that's the great art o' letter writin'."

Charles Dickens (Pickwick Papers)

To the Editor:

Your publication has been much enjoyed - a refreshing change from the usual Troy fare. Your editorial on education stated the problem well. As a former teacher I can assure you that mediocrity in education is indeed the norm. Teachers and students alike are reinforced for mediocrity. Peer pressure (and that from Administration) perseverates the problem.

Your 20 years ago Today column neglected to mention the most obvious (or perhaps I missed that issue!):

20 years ago today radical "underground" newspapers sprang up around the country in response to political and social conservatism. Today there is **Hardcopy for the Common Good**. Not much has changed after all.

Thank you for publishing something worth reading. I will look anxiously forward to coming issues.

Sincerely,
Leslie W. Mulcalhy
Troy

To the Editor:

Vox Populi? If we listen to the collective voice of America we hear contradictions, confusion, and a desperate murmuring. This is due, in no small part, to the fact that there are many folks putting a lot of energy and resources into the claim that they're voicing the concerns of the "masses". The result is somewhat of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Through selective coverage and through self-censorship the corporate media and the publishing industry limit the agenda for what we Americans are going to discuss and be concerned about. We respond by either dutifully following fashion or by withdrawing into our own little insulated worlds. And while it is occasionally true that truly grassroots issues filter up to the editor's desk to be reflected back at us through the media, the forces of cooptation and manipulation are hard at work. We are then left in confusion about what it was that we really felt and meant originally.

We are a confused society. We elected Ron Reagan but never really agreed with his policies. We respond negatively to those perennial studies that reword the Bill of Rights and ask us if we agree with it's values. Some of us aren't sure whether the socialist formulation "from each according to their ability, to each according to their need" is in our constitution or not. Many of us don't know if Wyoming is a state, city country, or a continent. Polls in the early 80's showed that U.S. citizens are alienated and disenchanted with government. More than half of us believe that "most people with power only try to take advantage of you" and "what you think doesn't count". Seventy five percent of us are resigned to the proposition that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Most of us don't bother voting anymore.

Nevertheless, we let ourselves get whipped up into a jingoistic frenzy when it's time for the military industrial complex to shift our critical attention from domestic matters to some foreign "enemy". And then we don't know who to blame when our sons and brothers come back in body bags. America puts the "pathetic" in apathetic. What's the matter with us? Are we a bunch of Uncle Toms? Have we taken an oath of mental celibacy? Why can't we think for ourselves and in our own self interest?

This is a major quandary. The question is why and how have we done this to ourselves. The left has dealt with this

problem with increasing skill and has insightfully developed critiques of two major institutions that affect our consciousness: the media and the schools.

Recent work by Noam Chomsky, Ed Herman, Ben Bagdikian and the ongoing work of Alex Cockburn points out how the news industry is controlled by a shrinking minority of corporations. They perceptively outline how the discussion of political issues is narrowly proscribed by the corporate interests that run the media industry. Radical viewpoints and perspectives never make it into the mainstream news discussions because they challenge the system that supports the news industry. Americans are treated to a limited debate. We don't even get a chance to see the whole picture. It is therefore up to the left to produce its own news media.

Well that's what I thought **Hardcopy** was all about but I guess I was not entirely correct. In the March issue **Hardcopy** readers were given two perspectives on Education: Conservative and Mainstream Liberal. Missing was a radical critique of American schooling. For whatever reason, **Hardcopy** allowed itself to be duped into addressing the issue as it is framed by the corporate capitalists. To restate the editorial: In order to compete in a world economy we need to educate our workers better. The editorial went on to explain that the way to do this is to realize that some folks are just naturally smarter than others and that we should embrace the life boat ethic and stop wasting so much time and money on disadvantaged, handicapped, and bilingual students. Barbara Grossman's article then went on to point out how those "industrious" Asians are hard at work building a superior economy through superior education. An interview with Mario Scalzi gave **Hardcopy** readers a picture of a liberal reformist working within this particular jingoistic framing of the issue.

No wonder 30% of all Americans are functionally illiterate! Are we only being schooled to be industrious workers whose faithful efforts will pad the pockets of fat cat industrialists as they reap the spoils of international economic war? If this is true then why should we give a damn about learning! This is the paradox of education in a capitalist society. How do you convince the majority of the citizenry to act in the interest of the corporate elite? The question is not whether Johnny is allowed to read or not. It's a question of toward what ends are Johnny, Jane, Jamaal, and Lateesha being trained to read.

Shouldn't our schools educate our young for democratic participation? Shouldn't our schools encourage critical consciousness so that we are able to act in our own self interest and spot hegemonic manipulation when we see it? Shouldn't our schools empower us to manage our own affairs so that we can take control of the economic and political system for ourselves?

If, as John Mohawk (former editor of *Akwesasne Notes*) Says, that "thinking is the reversal of domination" then isn't an informed and critically aware populace a threat to the powers that be? The reality is that if we are educated too well, if our eyes are really opened, if we are allowed to really reach our individual potential, then we will revolt. Uncritical perspectives are therefore necessary to perpetuate the injustices of our stratified and hierarchical society.

The subtle and complex mechanisms and variables that put a lid on our conceptual growth are revealed by radical educators

in the field of critical pedagogy (Ira Shor, Paulo Freire, Henry Giroux, and Michael Apple et al). I invite and challenge **Hardcopy** to deal with the real issues of schooling in America from a perspective that will inform and lead the voice of the people, (not stifle it) by reviewing the work of radical and activist educators.

The struggle continues,
Jon Greenbaum, Albany

The Editors Reply: Since we are sympathetic with the points made in your last four paragraphs, we are a bit puzzled by your remarks about our editorial and, upon re-reading it, conclude that it may have been a bit obscure. Let us clarify.

The editorial was about crippling attitudes toward education and, as such, avoided making explicit recommendations about what we should do to improve education. We did not advocate that resources be taken from educating disadvantaged, handicapped, and bilingual students and applied to the education of gifted students. Rather, we brought up the current allocation of resources to these two populations as an indication of our unwillingness to educate for intellectual excellence. We do not want to admit the existence of gifted children and we do not want them to excel, hence we do not devote educational resources to them. That is, of course, simply the most extreme example of a general unwillingness to educate our students well.

Certainly, we believe that, in any plan to reform American education, the neglect of the gifted is something which must be reconsidered. But we would hate to see education for the gifted to be bought at the expense of education for the disadvantaged or, for that matter, at the expense of education for the rest of our children and youth. It all needs to be improved, drastically.

Nor did we mean to imply that the primary reason education needs to be improved is to be able to compete in the world economy. Our main point along these lines was simply that xenophobia seems to be the only thing which is able to develop any sustained national attention to education. We certainly implied, if we did not say it explicitly, that that kind of motivation is, to put it mildly, unfortunate.

Economic viability is important and our educational system no longer promotes our economic viability — despite the fact that it is dominated by so-called corporate capitalists. But the critical consciousness you so cherish is also vital. Without it, for example, there is little hope of understanding that remaining economically viable in the world economy will require that we stop thinking about competing and think more about cooperating and helping.

Finally, we feel that the media aren't quite so monolithic as you

imply. Such cable offerings as C-Span and Ted Turner's CNN make more news available via television than the networks do, though, admittedly, such sources do nothing to advance a critical and radical interpretation of events. Similarly, a wealth of information is available electronically through an amazing variety of computer networks and databases. The game isn't up yet.

To the Editor:

As a former member of the John Birch Society who has been exposed to an incredible amount of revisionist-history literature, coupled with my own observations throughout the past fifteen years or so, I'm inclined to believe the monolithic conspiratorialists over the pluralists myself.

However, I must also disagree with Dan Wilcox's framing of the capitalist system itself for the current condition of the Status Quo, and instead repeat that which Karl Hess, Murray Rothbard, the early Jerome Tuccille, the late Ayn Rand, and a plethora of contemporary libertarian "pioneers" and writers have been saying for years, in that the true culprit is not laissez-faire capitalism, but rather hyphenated capitalism with the state acting as a sort of omnipotent referee.

Capitalists themselves don't make war, military-industrial complexes do. Unbridled capitalism did not initiate human slavery, bridled statism did, and, I should add, also brought a "disproportionate" number of Negroes to the Americas compared to the amount that would have emigrated from Africa on their own volition without slavery, and finally, capitalists alone don't hate non-fundamentalists, nor the more respectable denizens of "little Bohemia". Alone they would just love to profit from their passions (i.e. legal, domestic marijuana production), but rather it is the state, or perhaps the "church-state" that intervenes at this point and says: NO!... "too un-American," "too non-Western", "too morally licentious", etc.

Hopefully, I've shown a few of the disgruntled, anti-status quo crowd that waving red or even pink flags is not the answer, but rather keeping the state's powers at bay, is... something communism and socialism's goals do not concur with.

Bernard Continelli
Libertarian Party of New York, Latham

To The Editors:

Misguided individuals have used your publication to advocate for the dedication of a monument in Troy to recognize Vietnam era veterans. They admonish us to contribute to the building fund by saying we should "Honor the Warrior, not the War." Follow that thought to its logical conclusion: Moscow should have a memorial to the Soviet veterans of Afghanistan and Baghdad should be graced with a monument for the Iraqi chemical engineers who gassed villages in Kurdistan. After all, these memorials would honor soldiers who did their duty their countries, as they defined duty. Am I being absurd? Outrageous? of course. You cannot honor a warrior without in some way legitimizing his conflict.

The American soldiers who fought in Viet Nam were the agents of imperialism at worst and the victims of hubris at best. They did suffer and we should care for them. We should provide psychiatric help, medical assistance, educational benefits and employment training to these men. Anything necessary to help them lead productive and fulfilling lives. Those services should be provided to every citizen. The fact that we owe this debt to these men doesn't mean we should turn a national horror and a personal disaster into a cherished bronze memory though.

An appropriate Viet Nam era memorial? Perhaps one that depicts the students beaten by Chicago Police at the 1968 Democratic convention or the fallen students at Kent State. The inscription: "Blessed are the Peace Makers". Better still: a monument that shows two Vietnamese children. The boy, age 9, is blind and lame due to an encounter with a Claymore mine. He is led by his 12 year old sister. Her legs and arms are horribly scarred by napalm. At their feet is a tablet made from shell casings: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." That would be an accurate monument to the folly, the waste, the horror that was the Viet Nam war. I won't give money to build a monument to honor warriors. I won't pay homage to this dirty little war.

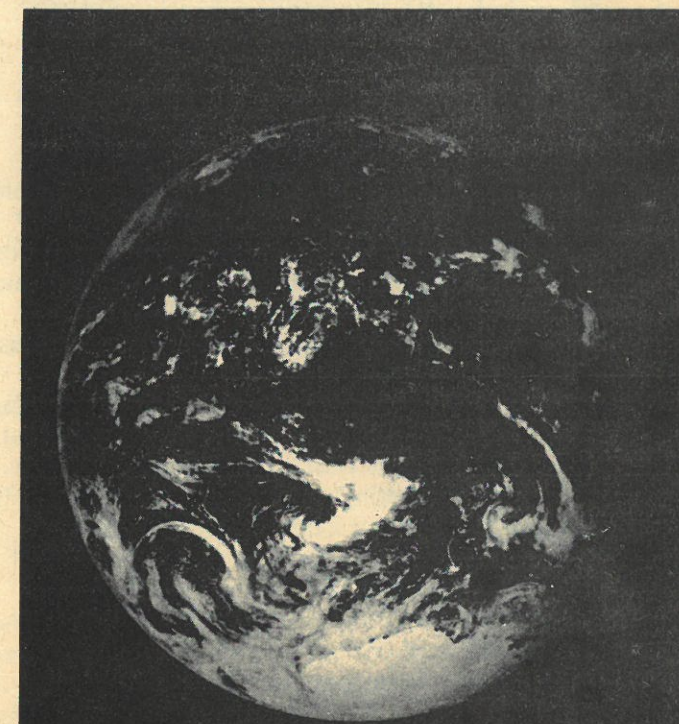
Ken Donovan-Peters,
draft resister,
Troy

The Editors Reply: First, a local memorial to those veterans who died in Vietnam should not be regarded as a definitive and all-encompassing symbolic statement about the war in Vietnam. Other statements are valid. Both of us were anti-war activists and one of us (Benzon) did civilian service as a conscientious objector. We certainly feel that the students who were killed at Kent State should be memorialized and we could also support a memorial which reminded us of what happened to the children of Vietnam (or the children killed in any war). None of these are definitive statements. All are partial, all are valid.

Second: The distinction between the individual soldier, and his or her individual sacrifice, and the war, whatever its political aims, is a valid distinction and parallels a distinction which has been important in Western culture at least since St. Augustine urged Christians to hate the sin, but not the sinner. Here we are being asked to distinguish between the war and the soldier — a distinction which is important to many of the veterans themselves. Some of the men and women who served in Vietnam were in favor of the war, some were not, and some have, in retrospect, changed their minds. Regardless of their individual attitudes about the war, their sacrifice should be acknowledged. Such acknowledgment is part of the process of repairing the bond between these veterans and the nation.

Third: We see nothing absurd about other nations, even our enemies, memorializing their soldiers if they wish to do so. We obviously have no obligations to erect such monuments, nor to accord

those monuments a citizen's respect. But that is because we are not citizens of those nations; those soldiers did not fight on our behalf.



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Comprehensive Watershed Protection Laws Needed

by Jeff Skelding

In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference.
Rachel Carson, 1962

THE CITY OF ALBANY is fortunate to have a clean supply of drinking water from a source located in a pristine area of the County. The Alcove and the Basic Creek reservoirs provide over 150,000 people in Albany and parts of Bethlehem and Guilderland with water. The land which surrounds this system and contributes water through precipitation and runoff to the reservoirs is known as the watershed. The Alcove-Basic watershed extends for 48 square miles. Water is pumped from the Alcove reservoir to three holding basins in Loudonville and then gravity fed to the City's distribution system. Before reaching Loudonville, the water undergoes testing and treatment at the Feura-Bush treatment plant. Treatment includes sand filtration and chlorination to address microbiological constituents.

MANY CITIZENS take it for granted that a clean and plentiful supply of water will always be available. The recent drought has raised awareness that quantity and quality is not guaranteed. Mayor Whalen recently announced a "water shortage alert" and has asked city residents to voluntarily comply with certain water conservation measures such as shorter showers and turning off the tap while shaving and brushing teeth. The extended forecast calls for a drier than normal spring which may lead to a more restrictive and enforced secondary level water conservation program.

Beyond quantity problems, perhaps an even more important consideration about our drinking water is its quality. Again, the basic assumption among consumers is that drinking water is free of contamination. In Albany this happens to be true. Other areas of the state have documented drinking water pollution so that the use of groundwater wells has been restricted and extremely expensive treatment systems have been constructed to bring water quality back into compliance with state and federal standards.

SINCE WATER is a basic need for both human and economic health its quality (and quantity) must be maintained. One way to gain some understanding of how this is accomplished is to consider some of the factors which cause poor water.

Ground and surface water pollution is almost always associated with poorly planned activities that take place on the land. Although the range of these activities is broad, much of the water contamination in New York State is intimately related to poor industrial housekeeping and unregulated development. The widespread production and use of synthetic organic chemicals has often contributed to water quality problems in this way.

Many people have at least a peripheral knowledge about notorious toxic waste sites such as Love Canal, New

York and Times Beach, Missouri. However, these disasters are often perceived as isolated situations far removed from everyday contact. A disturbing new trend indicates that trace levels of organic chemicals are ubiquitous in ambient air and water resources. Often, the source of these contaminants cannot be determined by an examination of surrounding land activities. This is an indication that toxic releases to the environment not only threaten immediately adjacent natural resources but also are transported and deposited in areas where no industry exists.

CITIZEN'S CAMPAIGN for the Environment, along with several other groups, is currently engaged in a battle to prevent what would be the first large-scale use of hazardous materials in Albany's watershed. The Mercury Refining Company (MEREKO) of Colonie recycles mercury from secondary materials such as thermometers, hearing aid batteries and dental amalgam. They are proposing an expansion of their existing activities to the town of Westerlo. Westerlo is located approximately five miles from the Basic Creek Reservoir. The Basic Creek, a tributary to the Basic Creek Reservoir, runs directly through the proposed site. Mercury, an extremely toxic element, will be reclaimed through incineration of the mercury bearing materials. Air emissions of mercury vapor from the stacks will be continual for 35 to 40 years. Once the mercury has been reclaimed it will then be transported to MEREKO's Colonie site for commercial resale.

Mercury recycling would be an extremely unwise use of watershed land. Air emissions from the incineration process would be deposited in the watershed. Elemental mercury typically settles in sediments of water bodies (i.e. watershed tributaries and reservoirs). When this inorganic form combines with certain organic molecules it changes into methyl-mercury, a much more toxic substance. Methyl mercury stays in the environment forever. It also has the ability to bioaccumulate in the flesh of animals and magnify up the food chain. There is also the probability that over the 40 year lifespan of the plant, an accident at the facility or in transport will occur.

THE SITUATION has all the markings of an epic battle. Citizens, organized at a grassroots level passionately dug in, versus a company, which, anticipating skyrocketing profits from a recycling revival, won't go away easily. But, beyond the significant threat of mercury pollution to the water supply lies a larger issue: the holistic protection of the entire

watershed. Because of increasing public opposition, which includes citizen groups, the City of Albany, and the County legislature, MEREKO may well be stopped. However, without comprehensive regulations which limit the handling of hazardous materials to reasonable levels throughout the watershed, nothing prevents other environmentally threatening activities from occurring.

Existing laws are not sufficient to protect the watershed. The City of Albany is currently updating their Watershed Rules and Regulations. These Rules are most restrictive in small buffer zones around the reservoirs and tributaries. Since pollution can result from activities that occur anywhere in the watershed, Watershed Rules and Regulations are jurisdictionally limited.

The State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issues permits for air emissions, hazardous waste transport, storage and disposal (TSD), and wastewater discharges (SPDES). As long as an industry meets the requirements of these permits they are free to operate. The nature of the permit system allows for some release of hazardous materials. The Federal EPA and the DEC have set standards for maximum allowable contaminant levels released to the environment.

So, although one permitted industry may contribute relatively small amounts of toxics to the watershed, imagine the environmental impact from the cumulative emissions of 30 industries. Add the distinct probability of accidents in transport and on site, and fugitive emissions from daily operations, and the result is a progressive decline in the environmental quality of the watershed. Without regulations which limit the handling of hazardous materials, it is eminently probable that this will be the future of Albany's watershed.

CITIZEN'S CAMPAIGN for the Environment maintains that large-scale handlers of hazardous waste should not be permitted in environmentally sensitive areas such as a watershed. If MEREKO gains approval to operate in Westerlo it sends out a loud invitation to other industries tempted by rural undeveloped land far from the watchful eye of state regulators. Conversely, if MEREKO is denied access to the site it doesn't necessarily follow that other industries will be less strident in their efforts to seek permits. This illustrates the need for comprehensive regulations which address the handling of hazardous materials throughout the entire watershed.

The City of Albany is in an ideal position to adopt and implement watershed protection regulations. Most environmentally protective legislation is adopted as a reaction to an existing environmental problem. Albany's watershed is largely undeveloped and environmental quality is good. Now is the time to enact laws, as a preventative measure, to maintain that quality and prevent polluting activities. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In addition, there is strong documentation for other parts of the state which shows a direct relationship between

poor planning and environmental damage. The evidence is abundant. We can learn from those unfortunate mistakes.

THE FORMULATION of watershed protection measures is a delicate matter. Factors which must be considered include:

- Constitutionally, New York State abides by home rule. Any law which applies to several municipalities would have to be compatible with local zoning laws in each. Fortunately, existing zoning laws in most of the watershed towns prohibit heavy industrial activity, a factor which lends itself nicely to the concept of watershed protection laws.

- Since the intention is not to prohibit all uses of hazardous materials, a balance must be struck between permitting small-scale activities (household chemicals, agricultural applications of pesticides) and the use of large volumes of hazardous materials.

- Resources at a county level must be strong enough to ensure adequate inspection and enforcement activity.

In Suffolk County, Long Island, the county Health Department adopted comprehensive watershed protection laws as a reaction to groundwater contamination. An important provision of that county law lists the amount and type of chemicals a company can store on-site. This is an effective method of allowing small-scale use and limiting large scale use. In addition, negotiations between the Health Department and the towns successfully reached jurisdictional agreement on the application of the regulations. This legislation could be a potential model for a similar program in Albany's watershed.

CITIZEN'S CAMPAIGN for the Environment (CCE) is generating public support for comprehensive watershed protection laws through a letter writing and petitioning campaign in areas where citizens receive drinking water from the Alcove and Basic Creek reservoirs. Over 2000 signatures have been gathered from residents who want hazardous materials regulated in their watershed. This enthusiastic response indicates that the public understands the need to protect their source of drinking water before it becomes polluted. For more information on how the campaign is progressing, please contact: Citizens Campaign for the Environment, 121 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. (518) 434-8171.

Jeff Skelding is program coordinator for the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, an Albany based environmental organization working for the protection of New York's water resources.



Water: Our Life's Blood

by Bill Sanjour

The "control of nature" is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and the convenience of man.
Rachel Carson, 1962

SCIENCE HAS GIVEN us clear water. When we turn the tap water on, it is almost certainly cleaned of the deadly diseases we feared 100 years ago. Science has also created thousands (some 60,000) chemicals that Americans use in homes, factories and in agriculture.

These chemicals come out of faucets of millions of Americans. It is unfortunate that the science of measuring the damage caused by these chemicals has not caught up with the science of producing and detecting these chemicals.

It is estimated that 500 billion pounds of chemical waste are improperly disposed of every year. Every day, 50 billion gallons of liquid waste are deposited at 26,000 disposal sites, 85% of which are located over aquifers. Some chemicals such as TCE's are so toxic that one gallon can contaminate a years worth of drinking water for 38,000 people. It has been estimated that 100 billion gallons of liquid hazardous waste is absorbed into the groundwater each year.

WE ARE creatures of water. The human body is made up of 70% water. The brain is 74.5% water; blood, 83% water; muscles, 76% water; bones, 22% water; kidneys, 82% water. All parts of our body are dependent on water. Water is needed to flush out impurities that enter our bodies. To believe that contaminations in water have little or no effect on our health, long-term or short-term, is to ignore biological reality.

If you were to dilute a potentially harmful chemical to one part per billion in a quart of water that quart would contain one potentially toxic molecule for each cell in the human body: 1,000,000,000,000,000 molecules of chemical against

1,000,000,000,000,000 cells. It would be hard to believe that the chemicals would not have some harmful effect on any cells.

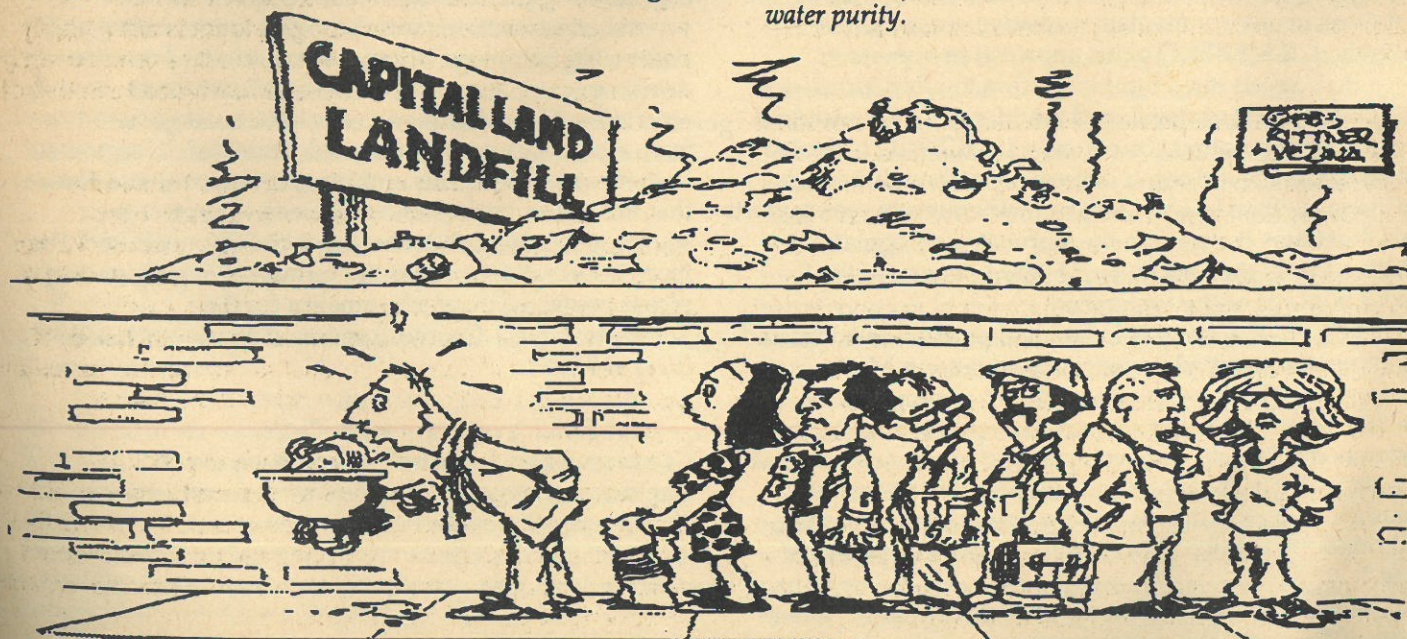
OVER 700 chemicals have been found in drinking water. Unfortunately, most water companies only test for about 30 of these.

In 1987 the EPA issued a report on lead. The report revealed that one out of five people, (42 million) were unknowingly drinking water with dangerously high levels of lead. 680,000 pregnant women and their fetuses were at risk. 250,000 young children will suffer a permanent drop in their I.Q.'s, and 30,000 children will suffer retarded growth. Lead will contribute to hypertension, stroke and heart attacks.

The high levels of lead are not always caused at the water source. Lead is often picked up as the water is distributed through underground pipes and pipes in the home.

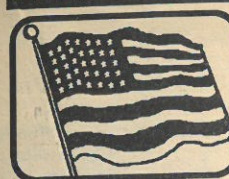
WHILE STATE and Federal Authorities may strive to do their best to provide us with the best water possible, they will not be able to undo all the damage we have done over decades. After all, this problem is not as easy to solve as that of ground litter, which we are able to pick up and dispose of relatively easily. We will have to live with this problem for years to come.

Bill Sanjour lives in Vermont and is concerned about water purity.



I've read about landfills polluting our water, but it can't happen here, right?

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Why The Bush Presidency Won't Work - Part II

by E.J. Woodhouse

There is no hope even that woman, with her right to vote, will ever purify politics.
Emma Goldman, 1911

THE FAILED NOMINATION of John Tower to be Secretary of Defense is the best indication of why the Bush Administration won't work.

To understand the rich implications of the fiasco, we need to look beyond the nominee's peculiarities and the new president's foolhardiness in undermining his honeymoon period with Congress. The focus here will be on what the Tower episode reveals about fundamental defects in the American political system.

THE STARTING point is to acknowledge that deviant behaviors are universal. And fascination with them exists in every nation with an inquisitive press. Outside the U.S., however, perceived character flaws rarely interfere systematically with effective governance. Despite continuing dispute over Kurt Waldheim's Nazi connections, for example, the Austrian government functions about as well as it ever did. The same is true of most exposés affecting Japanese, British, French, German, and Israeli officials.

In these nations, there may be political fallout from sex or bribery scandals — resignations, cabinet shuffles, even new elections. But government generally experiences little interruption. American leaders' personal afflictions more easily metastasize into governmental disorders. Thus, large segments of the U.S. foreign policy apparatus were hamstrung while waiting for a new Secretary of Defense; European diplomats were appalled at a superpower's inability to conduct ordinary international relations during the first quarter of 1989. And this was a minor ordeal compared with the difficulties arising when the nation lost confidence in Jimmy Carter. Worse yet was the near paralysis of government as Richard Nixon self-destructed in 1973-74.

WHY IS the U.S. prone to such dangerous conditions? Most nations' political frameworks mute the effects of leaders' character flaws, whereas American political institutions can actually exacerbate the bad effects. This is due to what Herbert Croly, founder of *The New Republic*, referred to as the central principle of American political design: "The executive shall not be permitted to do much good, for fear that he will do harm." Madison and other constitutional designers worried about the federal government becoming too strong, and the president becoming too much like a British king. They set up numerous "checks and balances" that pit Congress against the president, and one house of Congress against the other.

All this is a familiar story. What is seldom taught in civics course, however, is that divided government means crippled government. The Senate routinely rejects bills passed by the House, and vice versa; Congress thwarts every administration's fondest desires; presidents frequently override congressional majorities. Obviously it is difficult to

pass bad legislation in such an environment, because there are so many points at which it can be vetoed; but it is equally improbable that good legislation can be maneuvered all the way through the gauntlet. Partly for this reason, we rarely see American government making bold attempts to solve social problems, except occasionally for a year or two after a presidential landslide.

WHAT DOES all this have to do with John Tower and the Bush Administration's prospects? The recent journalistic and political hemorrhaging can be seen as nothing more — or less — than an accentuation of the political system's normal behavior. The nomination's miscarriage was no aberration. Our institutions are as good as any in the world at stopping chief executives from doing things that a lot of people think they shouldn't. Presidents still get away with a great deal, especially in military adventures where the commander-in-chief exercises prerogative authority beyond the reach of Congress. On balance, though, no other political system is better designed than ours to check abuses of executive authority — and most are distinctly worse at the task.

Unfortunately, that is only one of the responsibilities that make for effective governance. Unlike the agrarian nation for which the American constitution was designed, a technological society needs a government capable of actually solving social problems, relatively efficiently. Blocking unwise nominees or misguided schemes is important; but we also need a foreign policy that does not go into stasis while a new administration is sorting out its cabinet assignments. And we need a way to move the wheels of government when the president is not a highly charismatic, astute politician. For this sort of task, virtually every major political system is better designed than that of the U.S.

IN SUM, the protracted Tower debacle brilliantly exemplifies the American system's tendency to let obstruction get in the way of effective governance. Rather than acceding to the superficial interpretation offered by official Washington and by most American media, thoughtful observers can use this and other instances of congressional-presidential conflict to rethink our compliant acceptance of a political framework better suited to rejecting than to governing.

How might the American approach to political appointments be improved? More generally, how could we achieve a better balance between obstruction and creative problem solving? There are among the topics considered later in this series of commentaries on fundamental defects in American political institutions.

E.J. Woodhouse teaches political science at RPI.



The Ivory Tower and The Ivory Coast

by David G. Hays

There is little or no intellectual challenge or discipline involved in merely learning to adjust.
Betty Friedan, 1963

YOU MAY HAVE your own estimate of the world's most horrible problem, but my candidate is the hole in the ozone layer. We evolved inside a shell, and we are in danger of dissolving it. If we don't halt the dissolution and repair the damage, the cosmic rays may fry us.

Nuclear war, especially by accident, is another of my big worries. A small accident like Chernobyl has large effects. By comparison, a small war could have secondary and tertiary effects that added up to terminal disaster.

As a member of Amnesty International, I get reminded often of the extent of torture that continues in many countries. Keith Otterbein, an anthropologist at SUNY Buffalo who has studied the death penalty on a global scale, sees torture as part of bloody tyranny. In the Elizabethan age, England was subject to bloody tyranny, but that is a long time ago. Much of the world is still subject to bloody tyranny.

A friend who once held a high position in Planned Parenthood counts population as one of the world's biggest problems, and who can disagree? Whatever the world can provide in the way of a good life for its present population — and that may not be enough — we can't go on increasing in numbers forever and hope that the earth will nourish us.

Meanwhile, people starve in large numbers every day. More than that go to sleep hungry every night. Hunger could be your number-one problem, if cosmic and atomic rays frighten you less than they frighten me. We fight hunger by laws that redistribute some wealth from the richest to the poorest individuals in this country, and by international efforts that move some food from the most overfed to the most underfed.

We also try to increase the earth's production of food, but even as we do we are damaging the ecosystem left and right. Acid rain, wide-ranging nets in the ocean, waste disposal that poisons land and water . . . we are blighting the land that feeds us.

THE FOUR horsemen of the Apocalypse are riding across the world, and what am I doing about it? I am contributing some of my time to an effort to promote education. Am I an effete intellectual slob? Today is not the first time the question has come up. They say, "We can't put money into education as long as so many people are hungry," or ". . . as long as the risk of war is so high," or ". . . as long as . . ." the biological and physical problems of the world are unsolved. Until then, the intellectual problems look like escapism.

Well, they have tried it their way for a long time. Those who rule the earth have made war and peace, they have concerned themselves with the farms and factories, and they have been ungenerous toward education since education was invented some thousands of years ago. And what do we have? Fear of war, fear of ecological disaster as a result of

technological change and growth, fear of starvation, fear of governments. Perhaps it's time to think of what could be accomplished by putting education first.

CERTAIN GROUPS of immigrants to America put education first on their personal agendas. In my block there used to be a Chinese laundry. The proprietor had come from China, earned a little money, brought over his family. His children went to universities (he often wore a Brown sweatshirt), and on to medical school and law school. He altered the lives of his descendants for a long time to come by giving them education instead of automobiles.

An old saw says that if you give a hungry man food he can eat for a day, if you give him seeds he can plant a crop and feed himself for a year, but if you teach him to farm he can feed himself for the rest of his life. Jefferson believed that an uneducated population could not govern itself. Educated self-government seems the best remedy for the world's big problems.

Hitler made bloody tyranny work in a country of educated people, but my friends in the Soviet Union used to believe that the system would collapse because it had to educate enough people to manufacture advanced weapon systems, and once educated they would no longer put up with the nonsense. Some give Gorbachev credit for the change that is taking place, others give credit to the economic collapse that did, or was about to, befall the country. But perhaps some credit for the second Russian Revolution can go to the educational system.

For every Hitler, there are a hundred petty tyrants who rule bloodily in lands of illiteracy. Educated people think about the population of the world and don't produce families of a dozen children; educated people think about the environment and join the Sierra Club or buy small cars.

WE HAVE never been able to see the future clearly, and I doubt that we ever will. Some of our problems arose because we could not foretell all of the consequences of our actions. Others arose because there have been among us greedy, power-craving leaders who fooled enough of the people enough of the time so as to get away with crazy actions. Educated people are harder to fool.

And so I believe that education can help us handle the world's biggest problems. It will take a generation or two, but the world's problems are not going to disappear sooner than that. The class of '12 will find problems enough to attack with their well-honed intellects.

David G. Hays is an independent scholar working in linguistics, cognition, comparative anthropology, and the aesthetics of the ballet. He lives in Manhattan.



Universal Charter for Global Education

Sit down and read. Educate yourself for the coming conflicts.
Mother Jones, 1981

THE PURPOSES, PRINCIPLES, values, and methods of global education are the topic of a working group recently appointed by Global University USA, generally known as GU/USA. The group will issue a charter for GU/USA, which will distribute the charter widely.

THE CHARTER will speak of the world's needs and of what education can do to help the people of the world fulfill their needs, individually and jointly.

Dr. TAKESHI UTSUMI, president of GU/USA, who appointed the working group, says, "Satellite telecommunications make it possible for knowledge to spread from any country to all others. A student in Malaysia can learn bridge stress analysis from a teacher in Vancouver. An American student can learn how to build houses that need less air-conditioning from teachers in tropical countries. The countries that have the most advanced industry can learn a lot about emotional, social, and spiritual life from cultures that have not yet developed industrially. As distance education grows more common, its philosophy will affect the well-being of people and countries everywhere."

"I hope," he continues, "that many other organizations engaged in distance education will adopt our charter as a basis for their own philosophies. GU/USA will submit the charter to UNESCO for possible adoption as soon as the working group completes its task."

MANY ISSUES have already been suggested. Among them are freedom; social problems; environment; interaction among cultures, nations, action groups, and individuals around the world; technology; peace; development in both industrial and non-industrial regions; feelings and intuition; rationality and thinking; dignity; justice, etc. As more persons join the working group, the list of issues will grow.

The working group welcomes correspondence with anyone in the world, especially from outside the United States and from various countries and cultures other than European-American. Those interested can write a letter expressing thoughts on the issues already raised, or suggesting other issues that the charter should mention.

Letters should be sent to Dr. David G. Hays, Chairman, Committee on Educational Philosophy of GU/USA, 25 Nagle Avenue, Suite 3-G, New York, New York 10040, USA. Dr. Hays' telephone number is 212-567-7305. He promises that he will answer letters promptly.

GU/USA is a divisional activity of GLOSAS/USA, Dr. Utsumi's umbrella organization. Operating through GLOSAS, Dr. Utsumi has been a pioneer in establishing

electronic teleconferences linking various points on this planet — in North America, Japan, Korea, Guam and Australia, etc. GLOSAS/USA is an acronym for Global Systems Analysis and Simulation (USA), Inc.

Since 1972, Dr. Utsumi has been involved in demonstrations that fostered the building of data communications networks between the United States and various countries, particularly Japan. GLOSAS/USA has also conducted a series of highly successful international on-line computer conferencing and teleconferencing discussions. A detailed "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY" of the discussions is now available for those who are interested in membership, from Dr. Takeshi Utsumi, Chairman, GLOSAS/USA, 43-23 Flushing, New York 11355-3998 (Phone: 718-939-0928).

DR. HAYS, an author and consultant, was employed by The RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California, from 1955 through 1968 and was Professor of Linguistics in the State University of New York, Buffalo, from 1968 through 1980. While at RAND he founded the International Committee on Computational Linguistics, which sponsors conferences every two years, most recently in 1988 in Budapest, Hungary. He was also a member of a U.S. - Japan committee on machine translation, sponsored in the U.S. by the National Science Foundation. His latest publication is on human cognition in relation to the brain. He is now engaged in a study of cultural evolution.

The members of the working group are Dr. Utsumi; Dr. Hays; Thomas Berry, Director at the Reverdale Center of Religious Research; Robert Bonn, professor of sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Sylvia Chapp, editor-in-chief, T.H.E. Journal; Millard Clements, professor of education, New York University; Gerald F. Mische, president, Global Education Associates; Michael G. Moore, professor of education, Pennsylvania State University; Steven M. Rosen, professor of psychology, College of Staten Island; Parker Rossman, retired Dean of Ecumenical Education, Yale University; and Robert A. F. Thurman, director of the Columbia University Center for Buddhist Studies.

Support for Dr. Utsumi's work has come from AT&T Communications, Colorado Video, GTE/Telenet Communications Corporation, INTEC (Japan), Mitsubishi Electric, NEC, NHK, NYNEX, National Technological University, the National University Teleconference Network, the SONY Corporation, the Public Service Satellite Consortium, Private Satellite Network, Fetzer Foundation and others.



Gouverneur Miners Still on Strike After Three Years

by Margaret Weitzmann

"What freedom?" we asked again. To be wageslaves, hired and fired at the will of a soulless corporation, paid low wages for long hours, driven by the speed of a machine? What freedom? To be clubbed, jailed, shot down- and while we spoke, the hoofs of the troopers' horses clattered by on the street.
Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, 1955

"WHO'S THE SCROOGE?" yells the brother with the microphone. The picketers yell in response, "Z-C-A!" They have come from Massena, Canton, Potsdam, Lowville, from Albany-Troy, even from Pennsylvania, to demonstrate at the gate of St. Joseph's Balmat mine on behalf of Local 3701, United Steel Workers of America. The Gouverneur zinc miners. It is a vigorous show of support by industrial and professional unions of all stripes for the longest-running strike in the U.S.

The Scrooge is no longer Fluor, the conglomerate which took over St. Joe's in 1981. In 1986 Horseheads Industries (NJ) came in "out of the blue" to buy the mine. Horseheads owns New Jersey Zinc, which owns the Zinc Corporation of America (ZCA) — which now owns St. Joe's. The present corporate management is thus four-tiered, with management more unresponsive to union demands than ever.

The takeover was a complete surprise to the striking miners. Local 3701 initiated contact with the new management, only to be told they might just as well walk away. The national union has backed the Local's ongoing strike, which has come to symbolize a last stand by industrial unionism against the growing power of multinational corporations. Support from other unions has fluctuated, but it has never died. Area locals in Massena have dipped into their own pockets to contribute thousands of dollars to the miners. It was hoped that this demonstration, a two-hour collective picketing called by the Albany Solidarity Committee of AFL-CIO unions, would publicize the miners' cause throughout the ranks of organized labor and draw renewed support for their strike.

SUPPORT CAME. The marchers, bearing their locals' banners — Lock Haven PA Paperworkers, Troy Musicians, New York State Public Employees, United University Professions, Massena Steelworkers, Lowville Farmers, Capital District Glassblowers and Food Services, representatives of the St. Lawrence Trades Council — lined up with members of Local 3701, the Women's Auxiliary, and public-interest supporters, and all marched and shouted together.

"What do we want?" "Jobs and justice!" "When do we want it?" "NOW!"

If the management of ZCA ever sits down to negotiate with Local 3701, there will be two sticking-points. The first is conditions of health and safety. St. Joe's safety record, just before the strike, was abysmal. The problem of health is even more poignant. Mining and milling are dusty jobs; the dust is rock, and it cuts. The talc encountered in mining zinc at St. Joe's is both chemically and physically akin to asbestos, and zinc miners, like talc miners, suffer from

"brown lung". Yet ZCA, like Fluor, refuses to negotiate any improvement in health benefits. Indeed changes proposed by management would cut coverage for job-related illness, even as outside the mines state and Federal entities everywhere are intervening to eliminate the hazards of asbestos.

The other sticking-point is a corporate proposal to restructure jobs, a move which would allow management to "hire out" security, hauling, and maintenance to other companies. The aim, according to management, is greater efficiency. But the miners say it would leave in place those Local 3701 members who broke ranks and now work for ZCA. In most settlements acceptable to unions, companies fire scabs before rehiring striking workers.

"Our number-one sticking point is that we're right. If they got the changes they want, they'd have a company union," a spokesman says. "We got to tell 'em don't cut the health-and-safety coverage, don't jeopardize our workforce."

HOW MANY workers can ZCA claim? "We don't know exactly. Not more than a hundred twenty. One half's scabs, the other half's management." Are the scabs all former Local 3701 members? "No. Some are managers doing tasks formerly done by union men. We count sixty-two former union members now at work at St. Joe's." Eighty percent of the miners stayed solid in support of the strike. Their presence at the mine entrance has been visible, and vocal, for three long years.

Their Women's Auxiliary stands, marches, and shouts with them; runs bake sales, lotteries, and craft fairs; and makes public appeals to raise money for upwards of a hundred families. "We couldn't have done it without 'em." They still picket 24 hours a day, Monday through Thursday: two miners or twenty, there's always a presence. NEED A SCAB FAST?

CALL RENT-A-SCAB / HALF-ASSED WORK FOR HALF-ASSED PAY / 3701 OUT ON STRIKE TILL WE WIN — so reads a sign emblazoned on an old brown van which tilts against the rocks across the road serving as a permanent installation. The bitterness against former brothers is a brew these workers drink daily without relish, like a noxious medicine. If those 62 defectors weren't in there, it'd be next to impossible to maintain the mine.

THE WORKFORCE inside does manage to ship out four or five carloads of ore a month, which is one percent of the mine's output before the strike. "They got to do that much, just to cover their payroll." ZCA, like Fluor,

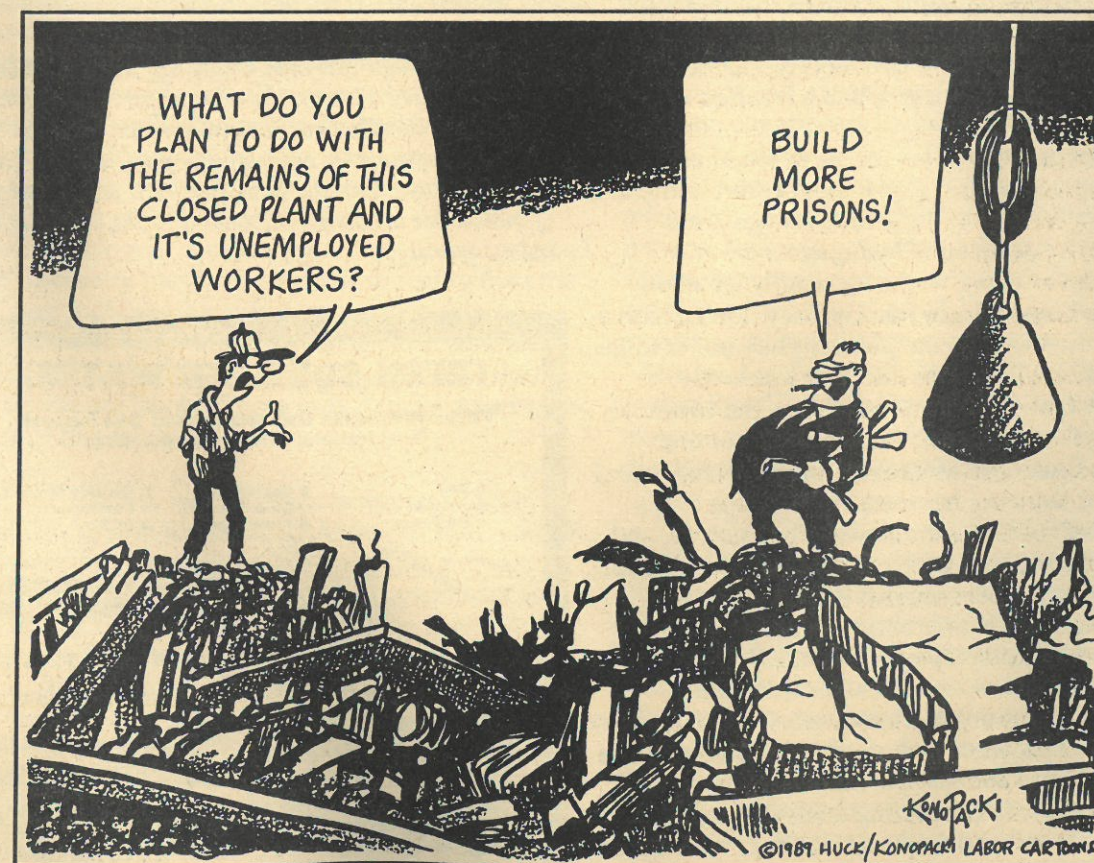
is sitting on its product, waiting. What for? "Us to go away. Profits. Whichever comes first." A huge problem initially for both owners and miners was the depressed value of metals. It's not a problem now. "The price of zinc has doubled in the last eighteen months. To seventy-five cents a pound, the highest it's ever been. Lead too, up from thirty-two cents to seventy-two cents a pound."

Another way for Horseheads to make some bucks without hiring back St. Joe's miners is to trade the mine off to another megacorporation. Is that in the cards? ZCA's only mines at this time are St. Joe's and they are once again on the auction block. If ZCA sells St. Joe's, they would be left largely with their smelters. Smelting is a process for recycling or reprocessing used or secondary ore. ZCA has hit upon a smelting process which is economical and they would probably stick to smelting until it became profitable for them to get back into the zinc mining business. In other words, ZCA can rather painlessly get out of the mining business if it so chooses and it need not be in any hurry to negotiate with Local 3701. On the other hand, the time will come when it will be in the interest of whoever owns the Balmat mine to see it operating at full tilt.

THOUGH THE miners have no assurance that the next corporate entity to pick up St. Joe's would be any more interested in mining ore, they can hope. They perceive their own wait-it-out strategy as being based on a sound long range view of the situation. When the mine's owners, whoever they are, renew operations at St. Joe's, the skilled workforce is in place, waiting. No economic logic in the world could justify passing it by. The only advantage to be gained by importing a whole new workforce would be the end of the union. A vindictive corporation might go for that, but only if it can afford to throw spite money around.

"We're feeling pretty good," the spokesman said. Besides donations of much-needed money, they took in food, games, toys, clothes, sporting equipment. Outside St. James Church two large pickups and a U-Haul truck filled up as picketers brought in their gifts. The miners celebrated the holidays with real cheer. Most warming was the sense of labor community, of shared troubles and triumphs. One of the Troy Musicians, playing her guitar, led participants in a verse and chorus of *Solidarity Forever* solemnly, fervently, like an anthem.

Reprinted from *Current: The Journal of North Country Action*, January, 1989. Used with permission.





At the Movies...

by Matt Hough

If big film directors are to get credit for doing badly what others have been doing brilliantly for years with no money, just because they've put it on a big screen, then businessmen are greater than poets and theft is art
Pauline Kael, 1968

LETHARGIC LIAISONS

"In affairs of the heart, there are no winners nor losers, only victims." The writer of those famous and cynical words must have had a particularly upsetting love affair that, no doubt, came to a nasty conclusion. Ironically, that's also playwright Christopher Hampton's viewpoint in "Dangerous Liaisons," the newly released screen version of his London and Broadway hit play. The lovers on view here are serious minded in the extreme, but their amorous thrusts aren't playful in spirit nor particularly joyful to watch. Those with a low tolerance for court intrigue had best steer clear of this 18th Century sexual roundelay. For the adventurous, there's a fair amount of surprise amid the psychosexual escapades on display here.

Glenn Close and John Malkovich star as former lovers intent on manipulating the love lives of several intimate friends, all hinging on a bet that if Malkovich can pull off a series of sexual betrayals, Close will allow him to bed her once again. The fun (if one's taste in fun runs toward lusty near rapes and malicious dalliances) comes from seeing if Malkovich, playing, somewhat uncomfortably, the role of a sexual dandy in fullest flower of desirability, can bed, then bribe, a maid, a virginal young girl, and a married lady, in order to win his wager.

It's all a matter of taste, of course, as to whether such scandalous liaisons constitute one's idea of entertainment. It should be said, however, that these little intrigues are played out against a backdrop of lush pageantry and expensive trappings which give the incredibly larcenous happenings a stateliness which, frankly, they don't deserve and which keeps the mood of the piece slightly out of kilter.

Director Stephen Frears has adopted a leisurely, studied, approach to the material that makes the two-hour running time seem that and a bit more. Except for one outburst between Close and Malkovich near the climax and a moment of Close showing her temper alone, the film's emotions are buried under layers of wigs, ball gowns, and French court splendor. None of the main characters are able to delve deeply enough into themselves to hook us into caring for their plights, whether happy or sad.

After the awesome display of emotion Close showed in last year's "Fatal Attraction," her tightly controlled Marquise here is a frustrating performance. Only in a couple of final scenes does she get to explore deeply into her role's inner recesses, and for a starring part, that's astonishing. Sometimes, less is more in portraying a wicked presence, but this film is in dire need of some adrenaline, which Close could have supplied with a more candid display of emotions.

John Malkovich is hardly anyone's idea of a Restoration Don Juan (though Fellini cast the likewise plain Donald Sutherland as Casanova with similarly unsatisfying results), but he does seem to inhabit his part more completely than does his co-star. His final confession scene is quite moving.

Michelle Pfeiffer is likewise too controlled in her playing, though the part of the married Madame de Tourvel isn't quite focused enough in its motivations to put her entirely to blame. Sadly, Swoosie Kurtz is laughably wasted as a courtesan whose innocent daughter is another of Malkovich's victims. Mildred Natwick brings sincerity to a tiny role, Malkovich's wealthy aunt who is cleverer than even he realizes.

"Dangerous Liaisons" has the look of a classy film. Unfortunately, its ponderous pace and lethargic lasciviousness make it a hard film to embrace with any real commitment.

Rating: 2 1/2 Stars

(4=Excellent, 3=good, 2=fair, 1=poor)

Matt Hough has been reviewing movies in various media since 1968. For 11 years, he was the film writer for the Tri-County Syndicate of South Carolina. His film reviews have also appeared in, among other publications, The Dallas Sun, the Music Gazette, BoxOffice, The Millionaire, and Q-Notes. He is now HARDCOPY's film reviewer and industry analyst.

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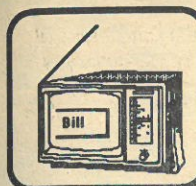
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Touchstones: Cosby Funks Up the American Dream

by Bill Benzon

Funky: from the Ki-Kongo lu-fuki, "positive sweat."

FOR THE PAST several years The Cosby Show has been the most popular show on prime-time television. To state the obvious, since the vast majority of Americans are of European descent, the show's popularity indicates that European-Americans like it. My argument is that the show is popular because it contains elements of African-American style which European-Americans have found attractive at least since the 18th Century, when the Rev. John Davis of Virginia noted, in a letter to John Wesley (the founder of Methodism) that "the Negroes, above all of the human species I ever knew, have the nicest ear for music. They have a kind of ecstatic delight in palsy." What Cosby offers us is a Funkified version of the American Dream. The funk is essential to the show's power, and it comes from Africa.

An obvious presupposition of the show is that African-Americans are entitled to participate fully in the American Dream. Whether or not most, or many, African-Americans actually live as do the Huxtables is beside the point. Prime-time situation comedies on network TV deal with mythology, not sociology.

Thus the Huxtable family embodies widely shared values and aspirations — interesting and remunerative careers for mother and father, attractive children, familial harmony, an elegant home and nice clothes all around. Previous African-American families on prime-time television were quite different. Fred Sanford (& Son) was a junkman living in the ghetto. George Jefferson (& family) was very successful, but also very insecure in the status attendant upon his material success. He was constantly on the lookout for racial slights. His insecurity may well be closer to reality than the Huxtables' easy self-assurance, but, remember, this is mythology, not sociology. The myth is that everyone has a right to what the Huxtables have. That, by the way, these particular people are black, simply puts African-Americans at the center of this myth.

WITH THIS in mind, we can begin to appreciate the brilliance of Cosby's mythologizing. As an example, consider the scene where, as a present to Cliff's parents on their forty-ninth anniversary, the whole family performs in synch to a record of Ray Charles' "Night Time is the Right Time." Cliff and his son Theo mime along with Ray's voice. Nice enough, and, from Cosby, some brilliant comic understatement. But the real action is with the women, who take the roles of the Raelets — "a kind of lascivious church choir," to quote from Peter Guralnick's *Sweet Soul Music*. All of them, from mama to young Rudy, swing their hips and sing. The song's statement is very simple and basic: The night time, is the right time, to be with the one you love. And the way those ladies move makes it quite clear just why the night time is the right time. We are talkin' about rockin' n' rollin' all

night long. Yeah.

The attitude, the ethos, thus being expressed is absolutely scandalous in the context of conventional middle-class values. That children and grandchildren should honor their elders, yes. But such a performance, my dear, is hardly an honorable one. We should remember that, thirty years ago, when Elvis took his swinging pelvis to the Ed Sullivan show, his motions were censored. Now the same movements appear on a wholesome family TV show as a gift from granddaughters to admiring and loving grandparents. Such a thing would have been shocking on "Father Knows Best" or "Ozzie and Harriet."

Such funkiness is central to The Cosby Show. It is most consistently present in the way Cosby moves and talks, but the other members of the family exhibit it in varying degrees. It is also present, of course, in the music, which has included Stevie Wonder, Frank Foster and the Count Basie Orchestra, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and John Coltrane (Cliff and Claire end one episode slow-dancing to a recording of "In a Sentimental Mood"), Joe Williams (who plays Claire's father), and Art Blakey.

African-American funkiness is, ironically, both a racist stereotype and a viable and vibrant cultural style. As stereotype it appears in the various low-life characters — pimps, hookers, pushers, hustlers, thieves, and so forth — to which African-Americans have generally been relegated in movies and TV. As cultural style it drives the African-American music and dance which have, in turn, driven American popular culture. Cosby's genius is to move this funk into the middle-class, away from stereotypical low-life characters. Not only is he saying "African-Americans can be middle-class" he is also saying that "The middle-class can be funky." It is OK to move and groove in the middle-class. Hot diggity, dog diggity, as Perry Como used to sing.

WHAT WE see in the success of The Cosby Show is a cultural process which has been going on for quite some time. European-Americans have been admiring African-American expressive style for three centuries and have been imitating and adopting it for at least a century and a half, beginning with minstrelsy before the Civil War, to the ragtime craze of the late 19th Century, to blues and jazz early in this century, and rock and roll starting in the late 50s. The pattern, European-Americans adopting African-American styles of music and dance, has come to dominate our popular culture. That implies that our popular culture is comprised of elements derived from Africa as well as from Europe.

For, starting with Melville Herskovits' classic study of

The Myth of the Negro Past, scholars have come to realize African-Americans did not leave Africa behind once they got off the slavers' ships. Much was, of course lost. But in music, dance, and in religious practice as well, strong elements of African culture have been retained and transformed.

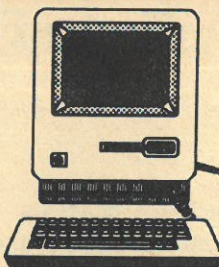
It is the African retentions which have been so very important in American popular culture. There seems to be a persisting gap in the European expressive heritage which European-Americans have filled with African-American music, dance, and comedy. In *The Cosby Show* those elements have been placed at the center of prime-time TV, which, as much as anything else, exhibits, defines, and refines mainstream cultural values. In the age of the yuppie and the leveraged buyout, the American mainstream is Afro-European.

THAT STATEMENT is not so innocent as it may seem. There has been a cultural elite in this country which has, from the beginning of English colonization, been concerned (obsessed) with defining a distinctly American, as opposed to European, culture. "What is it that makes American culture different from, and superior to, European culture?" However, this elite has always seen and experienced the world in predominantly European terms. The American culture it seeks is essentially a purer or somehow superior form of European culture. Those coming from this perspective have thus been blind to that which is central in American culture: the mixing of European with non-European, predominantly African, culture.

The fact that this cultural interaction has been dominated by European culture should not blind us to the positive force of African culture. One suspects, in fact, that Europeans and European-Americans would not have initiated the interaction, and guided it the way they did, if they had not been strongly, if obliquely, attracted to African culture. If there had not already been an economic need for slave labor, the European-Americans would have created the need in order to have an excuse to interact with African cultures through a mechanism which them a reason intimately to interact with African-Americans while justifying dominance and control over them.

Only when we begin to see clearly that our culture is a hybrid of European and non-European elements, that what is most uniquely and deeply American is that which most deeply partakes of this interaction, can we begin to forge for ourselves a role in the newly emerging international order in which European and North American dominance is gradually retreating. As Charles Keil asserted over twenty years ago in his examination of *Urban Blues*, "The problem of the Negro in America is inextricably meshed with the problem of America in the world."

If we want effectively to export the American Dream, we have to make it appealing to non-Europeans. The Bill Cosby Revised Funkified Version is a step in the right direction.



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Korean War Veterans

by Dave Millard

And what looks dark in the distance may brighten as I draw near.
Mary Gardiner Brainard, 1860's.

I WAS RECENTLY a guest at a wedding. After the vows were exchanged at a local church, everyone repaired to a local veterans post that had been hired for the reception. After arriving I took some time to linger in the tap room to visit with a number of friends and local Vets.

Not two minutes had passed when I was accosted by a local veteran whom I had known for years and always respected as a person and as an active member of more than one veterans organization. Much to my surprise he began to berate me for being a Vietnam veteran and accusing me of promoting "only" Nam vets while ignoring Korean War veterans. I proceeded to spend the next forty minutes ignoring my wife at the reception, in the company of two other vets at the bar trying to convince this vet that my record of advocacy for "all" veterans was second to none. Sadly, I feel that our explanations fell on deafened ears. He would not be swayed.

I've done a lot of thinking about this event, trying to sort out the chaff, putting myself into a position to feel things from the Korean vet's point of view. This was a difficult task, for the war in Korea was unique in American military history.

THE KOREAN "CONFLICT," as it was called, followed closely on WWII and was the world's first military stand against communist military aggression. The enemy, North Korean and Chinese alike, were ruthless foes and for most of the way outnumbered U.S. and U.N. troops by staggering margins. The contested terrain was some of the most inhospitable and difficult ever fought upon. The Korean climate is straight from an Orwellian nightmare, with temperature swings from 100° to -60° through the seasons. Our troops suffered terribly in the long Korean winters, with the elements causing as many, or more, casualties than the "Reds". But they held on, did their duty, fighting the enemy tenaciously until they began to run.

When total victory seemed in our grasp, we were reigned in by political considerations and forced to fight a war of "wait to die" until the politicians made the final decision to crumble and compromise with a country that only months before had rolled like a blood-crazed juggernaut across a peaceful land, slaughtering people of their own blood. They had won the battle in Korea, but had lost the war in Washington, their sacrifices were bargained away to a draw, their courage subverted.

OUR TROOPS came home quietly and went about the business of rebuilding their lives. The post-WWII recovering was building momentum. They took jobs and wives and set to work on their piece of the American Dream. Like all

combatants, most tried to put the war behind them. American was so wrapped up in its own economic expansion and "Cold War" that Korea quickly became a memory.

Within a few years of the treaty of Panmunjom the U.S. was at it again, this time in Vietnam. After the fall of Saigon in 1975 the veterans of the Vietnam war saw America once again trying to ignore the veterans who fought and to forget that the war had happened — as America had done after Korea. Vietnam veterans came home to a ruined economy that had lost 14 years to war and subsequently had no jobs for them, nor did the government provide the services it had promised to them before it sent them off to war.

Vietnam veterans started to complain vigorously. For this their peers labeled them as crybabies, and worse. Korean vets started to understand that they too had been shortchanged for recognition and benefits long before the Vietnam War started. Consequently many Korean vets began clamoring for their rightful place in society and history.

The Korean Vets aptly call their trial by fire "The Forgotten War" — which, sadly, it was for a long time. But today Korean vets are swelling with the same pride of duty that drove their brother Vietnam vets forward for recognition by a country shamed by its mistakes. Vietnam vets feel a very special kinship with our Korean veteran brothers, a relationship summed up by a statement made to me by a vet who served in both Vietnam and Korea: "A Korean vet is just a Vietnam vet who requisitioned long johns and never got them, then never asked for anything more from Uncle Sam and got what they asked for at last, Nothing!"

I AM glad to say that today the Korean War veterans are no longer sitting on the side lines and letting American ignore them, their sacrifices, and issues. Memorials and monuments to them and their lost comrades are proliferating throughout the nation, pushed and supported mostly by the Korean Vets themselves. Here in the Capital District we are looking forward to the completion of the N.Y.S. Korean War Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in the near future.

For me personally, the most dramatic show of unity among Korean Vets is a highly visible showing of their Color Guard and membership at local functions, dedications, and parades. They have proudly adopted a tasteful uniform, consisting of a light blue windbreaker and beret, recalling the United Nations colors under which they fought for Korea's freedom.

I am proud to count Mr. Bill Bradley among my

friends. Bill is the new president and mentor of the Northeast Chapter of the "Korean War Veterans Association." He and his associates have worked hard to promote the cause of the Korean War veteran in the Tri-Cities and across the nation and are doing a splendid job. Every Korean War veteran should contact Bill about the Northeast Chapter of KWVA.

Every veteran has the right to be proud of his service to our nation. This right is particularly important to those of

us to whom this right has been so far denied, for whatever reason. Stand up and be counted. For you fought and served together. Now is the time to reunite again in the service of your comrades & community.

FOR INFORMATION on the Korean War Veterans Association, contact: William F. Bradley, Membership Chairman, KWVA, 12 Sunset Avenue, Troy, New York, 12180.

LONELINESS-UNHAPPINESS-FRUSTRATION-ANXIETY-ANGER-DEPRESSION-CONFUSION

• Human Beings are wonderfully complex and varied, and so it is not amazing that sometimes we forget and lose our way.

• We forget the many skills and resources that allow us to value and love ourselves and the people closest to us, and instead act in self defeating and problem producing ways.

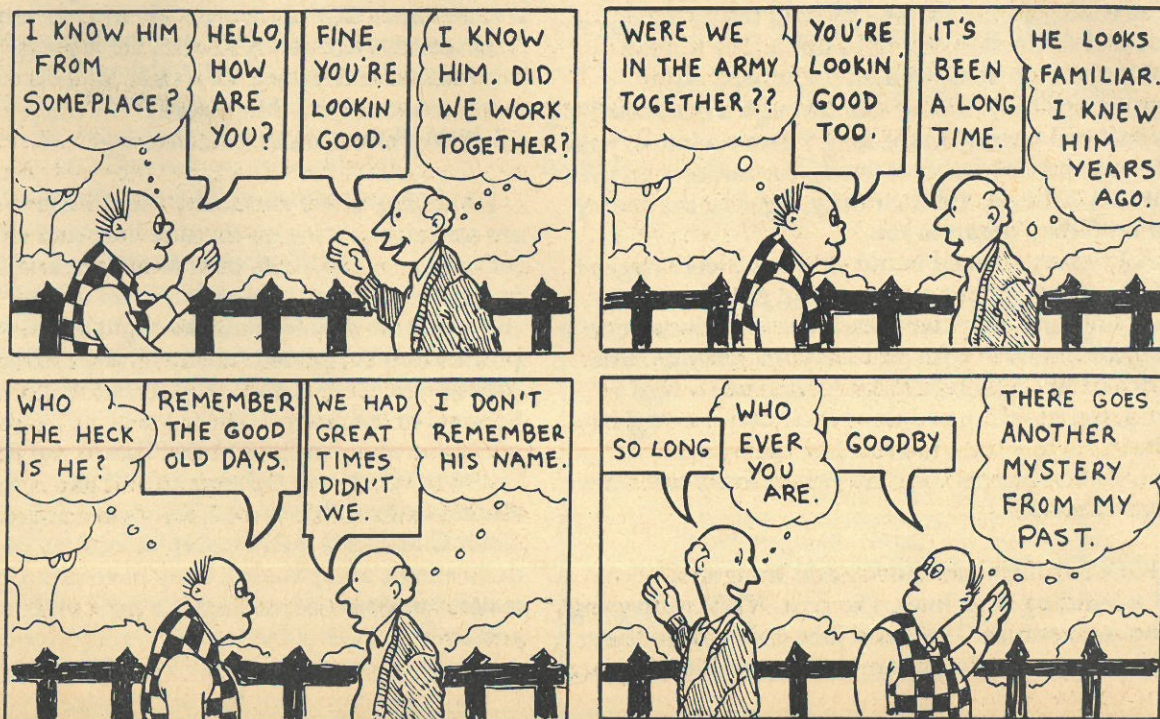
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THE SENIOR CLASS by wheeler



Homophobia

by Libby Post

Justice can never be done in the midst of injustice.
Simone de Beauvoir, 1948

THE PHONE RANG and it was an organizer's dream come true.

The Niagara County District Attorney, Peter Broderick, put his foot in his mouth and said us "queers" don't deserve the same protection from violence as racial and ethnic minorities. The Western New York lesbian and gay community was in an uproar and called the Lobby in search of strategy and help.

What a perfect opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade, or ice into ice cream (or whatever your political palate prefers).

Within a few hours and as many phone calls, flight reservations were made and I was on my way to Buffalo to meet with community leaders. While Broderick's comments were an affront (as well as ignorant), they gave a community previously suffering from malaise a reason to organize. On Friday evening, March 3, over 40 people met to work out an organizing strategy for dealing with Mr. Broderick and his remarks.

THE RESULTS were absolutely empowering. We decided a massive community meeting was necessary and slated one for Sunday afternoon. Direct action was also in our minds, and a phone-in to Broderick's office was planned for the following Wednesday. But, how to get the word out? The magic of desk-top publishing and high-quality copying worked well for our community that weekend. By Saturday afternoon, over 2,000 cards were ready to be handed out in the bars that evening.

Side one read: "Niagara County District Attorney Peter Broderick says we're sick and don't deserve protection. Come to a Community Meeting and Make a difference. (time and place) SAFE SPACE: A press conference to follow in another section of the building at 3:30 PM. Press will not be allowed at the community Meeting."

Side two: "Let Broderick Know How You Feel. Call him on Wednesday, March 8th, ALL DAY, and be part of the Lesbian & Gay Community's ALL DAY PHONE IN. Sample message: 'I'm calling to express my outrage at D.A. Broderick's blatant bigotry and hatred of lesbians and gay men. My community and I demand an apology and expect Mr. Broderick to sit down face to face with lesbian and gay community leaders.'" The card gave his address and phone number. In addition, a different set of Niagara County legislators and their phone numbers was listed on each of four different second sides.

SATURDAY NIGHT came, and socializing mixed well with politics. A group of gay men from SUNY Buffalo went to the bars, had a great time, and handed out the cards. The owners of the women's bars made sure the cards were given out with each drink served.

Sunday afternoon came around with typical Buffalo weather, a sleet and ice storm which closed some of the highways. However, over 200 people packed the community meeting, signed letters about Broderick's remarks and the absolute need for the bias-related violence bill. The letters went to Governor Cuomo, Broderick, Senate Majority leader Ralph Marino and Niagara County State Senator John Daly. With this done, we took our energy into the community.

The 3:30 p.m. press conference was a huge success, with all the major media in the area attending. The Buffalo Lesbian & Gay Community Network (the group which galvanized this effort) called for a face-to-face meeting with Broderick. Leaders from the local P-FLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) spoke, as did I.

ON WEDNESDAY, Peter Broderick's secretary didn't know which phone to answer first. The lines were so tied up that some people didn't get through at all.

And, Peter Broderick did meet with the leaders of the Community Network only to further put his foot in his mouth. He basically reaffirmed his premise — if you people didn't make sexual advances to us heterosexuals, you wouldn't get beat up.

With this remark, I can hear the collective groan of the community.

However, the organizing which took place led to overwhelming media coverage (even a 30-minute interview on AM Buffalo — the "Today" show of Western New York), and revitalized a community. In most of my remarks, I thanked Mr. Broderick for his remarks because they gave us a central issue around which to organize.

I left Buffalo Sunday afternoon. The Lobby made a good showing for itself and we received plenty of press coverage. but more importantly, the Buffalo-area lesbian and gay community is seeing political action as necessary and taking the risk of being out of the closet.

• Other Lobby News: May 1 and 2 are important days for the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby. On Monday evening, May 1, the Lobby is holding its 2nd Annual benefit Awards dinner and on Tuesday, May 2, our Lobby Day. For more information on either event or any issue relating to the lesbian and gay community, call 426-3256 and speak to the Lobby's executive director Jim Perry.

Libby Post is Co-Chair of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby.



Godzilla Speaks out on Albany's Art District

The sense of humour has other things to do than to make itself conspicuous in the act of laughter.
Alice Meynell,

With the arts office now vacant, the City of Albany decided to kill two birds with one stone and hire someone totake responsibility for Albany arts and to develop a strategic plan for increasing tourism in Albany. The position called for someone with high visibility and a lot of muscle. When city officials found out that Pat Godzilla, the well-known kelp farmer and physical fitness entrepreneur, was looking for an arts-related post "with class" they set up an interview. It seemed to be a match made in heaven.

"When I walked into City Hall and saw all the old dinosaurs, I knew this was my kind of town," said Godzilla. City Officials were equally impressed, citing Godzilla's dynamic speaking style and natty suit as being "the right stuff."

Unfortunately, Godzilla was apparently unable to deal with the stress of Albany machine politics and went on a rampage after a week on the job. However, just before this happened, Softcopy was able to obtain an exclusive interview with Godzilla at McGreasey's, a favorite watering hole.

Godzilla . .

My friends call me "Big G." You do want to be my friend, don't you?

Yes, uh, er, Big G., what do you think of the Theater Arts District?

I think it's a fine idea, of course, but we need to work the kinks out. First, I think we have to stop all this bellyaching about whether or not this thing is going to happen and whether or not Mayor Sailin is serious. Of course Failin is serious and of course it's going to happen. Positive thinking, that's the ticket.

We agree 100 percent Big G. But there are problems. What about the fact that The District is mostly parking lots and parking garages?

I think we turn that into an asset. Right now we're negotiating with Goodyear to fly a blimp in and anchor it to the Palace theatre. We'll project movies on the blimp and suspend a stage beneath the blimp so we can have outdoor plays and concerts. Then people can just drive their cars into The District and take in the show. The Berkshire Ballet is very excited about presenting shows 200 feet above the city streets. It'll be a first. Although my buddy, Kong, tried something similar a few years ago in New York.

What ideas do you have for increasing tourism?

Well, we have to exploit the Bill Kennedy phenomenon more effectively. The "Ironweed" movie may have been a drag, but it was very visible drag. I think we should us part of the Pine Bush for an "Ironweed" theme park. We could

have a Ride-the-Rails Roller Coaster, the Talking Graves, the DT House of Fun, and to cap it all off, a weekly reenactment of the "Bums's Massacre." We'll build some cardboard shacks, fill them with mannequins, and then charge people ten bucks for a baseball bat and a can of gasoline and let 'em charge in there and have some fun. And the beauty of this, you see, is . . . Well, when the Knickerbocker Arena is finished there's going to be a lot of construction workers who need jobs and they'll jump at a chance to rebuild shanty-town once a week. Out-of-work artists can work at restoring the mannequins each week. The people who go in there get a chance to relieve their frustrations. It's perfect.

Sounds impressive. But isn't the Pine Bush supposed to be protected? Where're you going to get the authority to do this?

Look, Mayor Wailin has all the authority we need. As for protection, this environment stuff is over. This is the 80's, free enterprise, the entrepreneur, individual initiative, greed and wealth, damn the torpedoes and full speed ahead. Don't tell me about the environment. The environment never did me any favors!

OK. Gotcha. In a different direction . . . Some people have expressed some concern about your temper. After all, you have been on some pretty destructive binges in the past. Do you have any comment about that?

Actually, I'm glad you brought that up. Yes, I have had some trouble controlling my temper, but that's all over now. For awhile I had a drinking problem, but I went to the Betty Ford Clinic and got that taken care of. But, I'll tell you, what's helped me most has been past-life therapy. I've gone back and recovered some of my past lives and that's given me great insight into myself. I used to be Gilgamesh, Cleopatra, Sir Lancelot, Attila the Hun, Joan of Arc, Gerinomo and . . . I just got back from a session with Shirley and found out I used to be a guy named Abraham Yates.

Abraham Yates?

Yeah. Ever hear of him? The session ended before I really got into that life so I don't know much about it.

Well, Abraham Yates was an early mayor of Albany. Right now they want to tear down his house so they can build a hotel.

My House? They want to tear down my house? Well! We'll just have to see about that. I believe in development as much as the next guy. But tear down my

house. No way are they going to tear down my house.

Calm down there Big G.

Don't "Big G" me you insolent human. Outta my way. Tear down my house... I'm gonna tear down your city... I don't get no respect... no respect... my house... your city tear down destroy destroy arrghhhh!

GE TO MOVE ENTIRE WORLD CENTER BACK TO SCHENECTADY

In a surprise move, General Electric announced today that they are moving their entire company back to Schenectady. It is estimated that the move will bring 70,000 new jobs to the "Electric City."

According to I.M. Bright, a spokesperson for GE, "Hey, we always wanted to do this. We slowly moved out of Schenectady because you could never make a left onto State Street," he said. "Our engineers were always going around in circles, and it was costing us lots of money."

Karen Johnson, Mayor of the City, announced that she would turn back on the street lights in downtown as a good will gesture to GE's decision. Former Mayor Frank Duci interrupted Johnson's remark telling the press that he always knew GE would do it, and that the people should elect him Mayor again because of it.

Johnson quickly floored Duci with a right uppercut.

NOTHING HAPPENS IN GUILDERLAND

For the fifth year in a row, there is nothing to report on Guiderland.

SOUTH TROY SECEDES FROM CITY

In an long expected move, residents in South Troy formally announced they are seceding from the rest of Troy - citing cultural and political differences. The announcement took place at the South End Tavern located in the old iron works district.

Roadblocks have been set up on all major roads starting at Canal street on the north. Toll booths have been created and it will now cost 25 cents to drive through the area.

Governor Cuomo has the National Guard on alert.

Sporting T-shirts with the slogan "South Troy Against the World," South Trojans have complained for years that the area has not been taken seriously since the iron factories were closed down in the fifties and sixties. Last year, South Troy was commended by the Good Homekeeping people for having the cleanest streets in the U.S.

A temporary city hall office has been set up in the South End Tavern.

"Ah, let them go," said City Manager Steve Dworsky. "They're no fun anymore since they hardly have any more church bizarres or fried dough."

FIND THE VILLAGE CONTEST DRAWS HUNDREDS

Students and adults alike are having a ball trying to find

the Village of Colonie. The idea originated when the village mayor complained that the post office kept delivering mail to Town Supervisor Fred Fields' office instead of to him. According to the Postmaster on Karner Road, "We know there's a village here somewhere but our carrier's are going through too many pairs of shoes looking for it", he said.

According to the Mayor, "We thought it would be a great time for all not only to find the village limits with a contest, but it would be an educational experience also. We really do have a village here and proud of it," he said. However, he was unable to give the village boundaries when pressed.

The winner will receive a beautiful paper mache rendition of the abandoned Mohawk Drive-In, once a village hot-spot.

The Mayor plans on announcing the winner as soon as he finds his office.

WATERVLIET TO BECOME PARKING LOT

The New York State Department of Transportation announced today that they will finish the job they started in the 1960's.

The rest of the city of Watervliet will be torn down and made into a large parking lot with special commuter areas for people working in Troy and Albany.

According to a DOT spokesperson A. S. Phault, "We are tired of listening to Troy and Albany complain about their parking problems, so this should shut them up," he said.

Most of downtown Watervliet was torn down to make room for Interstate 787. When asked about the impact on city residents, Phault remarked, "Oh, people still live there?"

MAYOR WHALIN' TOP TEN LIST*

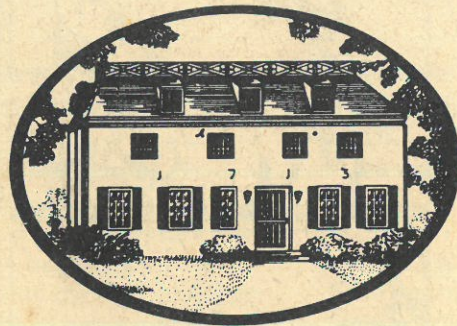
Top ten comments Mayor Whalin' was heard whispering to Dan Creapak.

10. How many Irishmen does it take to screw in a lightbulb. None, they use candles.
9. I really am an environmentalist, really!
8. Do you think Bill Kennedy will let me play the lead in "Legs."
7. How many golf holes could we really build on the Normanskill?
6. Do you think we could change my title from Mayor to King?
5. Don't you think Whalin' Arena sounds better? Thar' she blows!
4. What does monotone mean?
3. Do you really think Jennings will run against me?
2. Pave the Pine Bush, fry the Karner Blues."

And the number one comment ...

1. I wish people would stop calling me Erastus.

* apologies to David Letterman



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Jennings for Albany Mayor?

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forum on all issues and therefore viewpoints are those of the
authors, not necessarily those of
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COVER PHOTO: The Pine Bush. This unique area, home of
the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly and other plant and
animals, is under constant threat of destruction. The City of
Albany is trying hard to turn this wildlife treasure into a
common suburb.
Photo by Don Rittner.

The editors would like to note the passing of
Lucy and Gilda Radner
Both made us laugh and forget our problems.

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Once Again, Save the Pine Bush

The less done to it, the better.
—Arnold Brunner, 1914

"Save the Pine Bush, Again? I thought the Pine Bush
had been saved ten years ago."

That, gentle reader, is what we thought as well. But we
are wrong. The City of Albany wants to consume 25 more
acres of Pine Bush as an interim extension to the Rapp
Road Landfill. The need for landfill is extreme. The size of
the parcel seems small.

But, this proposal is just one more action in a series of
actions which makes it clear that the City of Albany has
little regard for the wishes of those many citizens who
have said that they want the Pine Bush preserved. During
the Corning Administration approximately 600 acres of
Pine Bush had been purchased and placed under
protection. During the Whalen Administration only 19
acres have been purchased, and many more acres have
been developed or altered.

With adjudicatory hearings coming up on this summer,
we must, once again, consider the Pine Bush.

According to State figures, 1,464 acres of Pine Bush are
preserved. Those figures differ with Pine Bush
preservationists - about 1000 is more realistic. Since the
parcel under consideration is preserved, its use as a dump
would reduce that
acreage even more.
Legally, that land would
still be preserved. But
the legality would
become a mere fiction.

We need to be
preserving more Pine
Bush, not less. Ecologists
estimate that at least
2,000 acres need to be
protected if the Pine Bush
ecology is to survive.
And the survival of the
Pine Bush ecology is the
point and purpose of
preservation. The Pine
Bush is only one of a few
Pine Barrens in the
United States. This land
is unique. There are
perhaps 20 pine barrens
known to exist in the
world, and the Pine Bush
represents the fourth
largest.

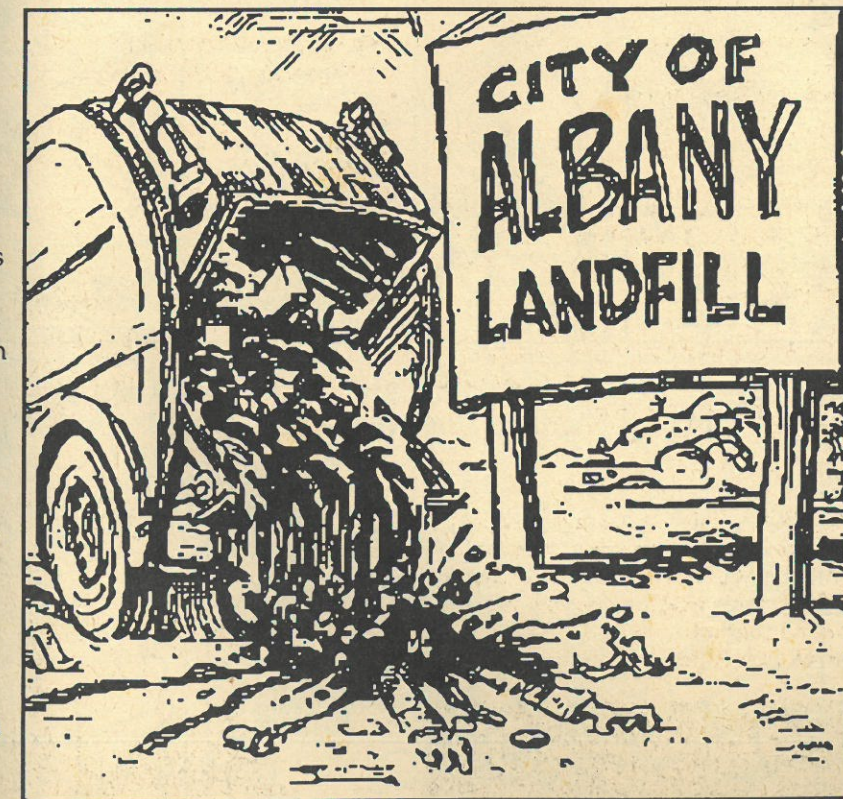
When this land is

gone, so is the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly, for this
is its largest habitat. The Karner Blue, in its uniqueness, is
thus a fit symbol for the Pine Bush. But it is only a part, a
small part, of the intricate web of life which constitutes
the Pine Bush ecology. A web in which sunlight,
minerals, air, plants, insects, and animals interact in
intricate and poorly understood ways. We hold this
unique ecological web in trust as a national treasure, as a
world treasure.

You think we would have learned by now. We have
been destroying the earth for thousands of years.
Northern Africa was not always a desert. But, through
agriculture and animal husbandry, we turned it into one.
The Amazon rain forest is rapidly being destroyed to
make way for development, development which will turn
the Amazon rain forest into the Amazon desert. Carbon
dioxide in the upper atmosphere is creating a
"greenhouse effect," which will give us more and more
summers like the last one.

As citizens of the Capital District we cannot do much,
directly, about the Amazon rain forest or the upper
atmosphere. Those problems are huge and will require
unprecedented
international
cooperation. But we
can save our unique
piece of the earth's
legacy, we can save
the Pine Bush.

But we cannot
trust the Whalen
Administration to
do so. In prefiled
testimony given in
preparation for the
adjudicatory
hearing on the Rapp
Road Landfill
expansion, eight
cases were listed
where the City tried
to ignore its
obligation to protect
the Pine Bush. For
example, in August
of 1983 the New
York State
Department of



Albany residents dumped on again!

Rittner & Vezina ©1989 Naturalist-At-Large



Transportation proposed to expand the interchange at exit 24 of the Thruway in such a way that 300 acres of pristine Pine Bush would have been destroyed. No one from the

city objected to this project.

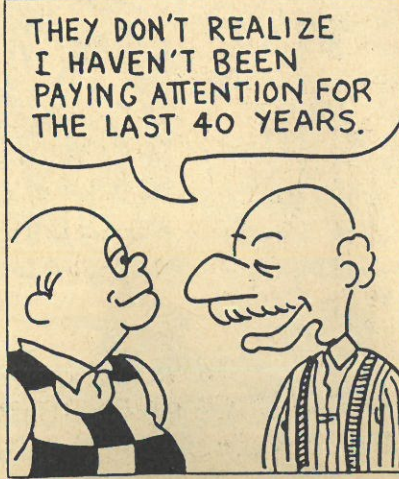
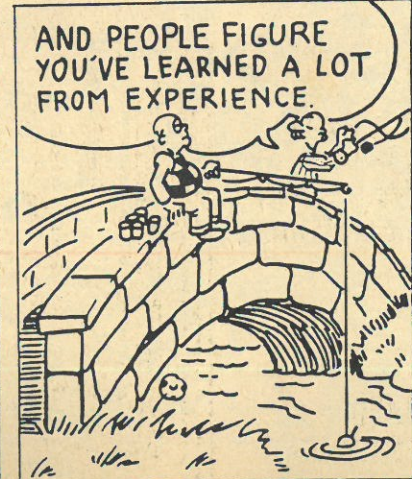
In October of 1983 Mayor Whalen, at the suggestion of Albany's Pine Bush Preserve Manager, created the Ad Hoc Pine Bush Committee to make recommendations concerning commercial development and preservation in the Pine Bush. The City has completely ignored the guidelines recommended by this, its own, committee. In fact, the following year, the city of Albany wanted to sell part of the preserve that lies in the Town of Colonie!

These are only three of eight documented examples. But the conclusion to be drawn is clear: The Whalen Administration cannot be trusted to protect the Pine Bush.

If the Department of Environmental Conservation agrees to permit the development of an interim landfill in the Pine Bush, it must first force the City of Albany to acquire all Pine Bush holdings for preservation purposes and then to turn the management of the entire city-owned Pine Bush Preserve over to the State of New York. Only when that land is safely out of City control can the City be permitted to develop the landfill extension.

If you wish to speak out, write to Mr. Thomas Jorling, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205.

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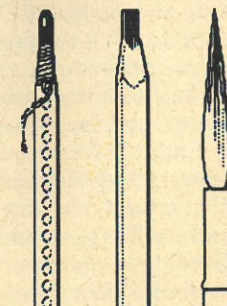
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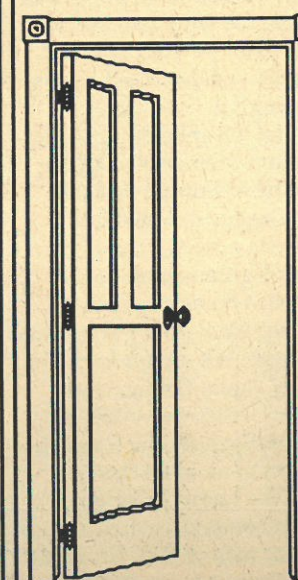
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LETTERS to the Editor

To the Editor:

This is an open letter to you and your readers in answer to the "Letter to the Editor" penned by Mr. Peters and printed in the March issue of **HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD**.

It may surprise both you and Mr. Peters to know that on most points, I totally agree with his comments, although I do have some opinions that diverge from his point of view. Let me state right from the start that I speak only for myself and not for all Viet-Nam Veterans. I know from association with other Viet-Vets that there are many who hold the same point of view on the war, but there are those who heartily disagree.

Personally, in hindsight, I have to agree partially with the contention that US soldiers were in Viet-Nam for many reasons other than for our stated mission of "preventing the spread of Communism." Most of those reasons are neither acceptable or palatable to the true ideals of Americanism. As to being a victim of pride (*Peters wrote of "hubris" — ed.*), I'll accept that label, perhaps I am still a "victim" of pride. I grew up instilled with a sense of pride in my country and pride in myself. I was also instilled with a sense of obligation to my family, community, and nation. "Ask not..."

When I came of age I was invited to join the Army, not the Peace Corps, — that was for people with degrees and such. I couldn't afford a student deferment and a Conscientious Objection deferment would have been a lie, so I served as requested by my President. I was proud to serve then and, despite all the ill effects my service has had on others and on myself, I remain proud today. I gave till I bled, cried and nearly died, you bet I'm proud, I'm proud of my service to my country and proud of those who endured with me in an untenable, unpopular, immoral conflict that was pushed upon us by an even more untenable, immoral, government!

Those of us who fought in Viet-Nam went to war at least hoping, if not knowing, that we were doing the right thing. As it worked out, after a short time "in-country" most of us realized that things were not as they seemed. In no time at all notions of fighting for Democracy, Mom and Apple Pie were reduced to a fight for survival. The issue was "Survival" — your survival, your buddies' survival. This raw fight for survival built strong bonds between those who endured through it.

It is from this bonding and respect that we are committed to complete the Rensselaer County Viet-Nam Memorial. Unlike the legacies of freedom bestowed on most of Europe and the Pacific by the service of our fathers, the legacy of Viet-Nam is a "mute lesson" in testimony to "power run amuck," our government's mismanagement and self-righteousness at the expense of not only Viet-Nam vets but also those students at Chicago and Kent State. The scars of Viet-Nam policy are visited today not only on the children of Viet-Nam but on our own children who are too often the victims of Agent Orange and poverty.

Every veteran whose name will be inscribed on the Rensselaer County Memorial gave his life in support of an ideal that is honest and with virtue — "Freedom." We know, through hindsight, that the appeal to freedom had been perverted by our government. This was unknown to these men as they drew their last breath. We stand to honor them as individuals who were devoted to high ideals, and to each other, to the death.

HARDCOPY ON CORRESPONDENCE

Truth is the nursing mother of genius.
—Margaret Fuller, 1846

In closing let me say that I'm glad Mr. Peters won't pay homage to the Viet-Nam war. It would an insult to every one of us who went. For you'd be paying respect to a policy that, but for the "War Powers Act," could be resurrected to visit the same tragedies on our sons that you and I endured on opposite sides of the world twenty years ago. But, to forget those who gave their lives in open service to others would be a tragedy.

Peace,
Dave Millard
Troy

We hear you. Ed.

To the Editor:

I'm only a visitor passing through Troy, so I doubt that I'll see another copy of your publication. However, I'd like to comment on the April, 1989 issue.

First, concerning the April Fool section, something does happen in Guilderland. That's where they make superconducting wire out of niobium-tin alloys. Such wire has many applications in medical technology, electrical systems, etc. It all happens at the headquarters of the Intermagnetics General Corporation.

Second, a Radon ad on page 2 cited "FDA protocol..." Surely they mean: EPA protocol, etc. It is the Environmental Protection Administration that oversees radon.

On a more serious note, I take issue with a statement in your editorial that unites the environmental movement with the pro-abortion position. You state "the pro-Life Forces wish to remain bound by the ignorance of their ancestors." I think it is the pro-abortion side that is bound by ancestral ignorance.

Since 1973, the year of the Roe vs. Wade decision, there have been tremendous advances in medical technology. In particular, fiber optics allows us to see inside the womb and look squarely at the developing baby at a very early stage. Anyone willing to look at the pictures made by either ultrasound or fiber optics can judge for themselves whether the baby that they see is worthy of protection.

In years past, when nobody knew what was going on inside the womb, people didn't think the baby was alive until the mother felt it kick. Today we know that this occurrence is a consequence of the fact that there are no nerve endings in the wall of the uterus. (If there were, consider how painful it would be when that wall falls apart every 28 days.) It is only when the baby's foot extension can drive the wall of the womb to strike the diaphragm muscles that a "kick" can be felt. Ancestral ignorance invented the term "quickening." Today, medical knowledge has made that concept totally obsolete.

Fiber optics has been used to show the true reality of an abortion. The film "The Eclipse of Reason" by Dr. Bernard Nathanson shows an actual abortion taking place, from the inside. Everyone who watches it can plainly see a genuine human baby being torn limb from limb, in plain sight of the fiber optic TV picture.

I challenge you (and indeed, your entire readership) to seek out and view a videotape of "The Eclipse of Reason." After you have seen this film (which is entirely medical and scientific, containing no trace of religion or emotion), judge for yourself

HARDCOPY ON CORRESPONDENCE

what is true and what is "Ancestral ignorance."

Tom Sheahen
Derwood, Maryland

Tom, we know some things happen in Guilderland and have included your plug for Intermagnetics (they will take an ad out now, right?).

You are also right about EPA protocol instead of FDA. That was our error, not the advertiser. Someone's fingers got confused.

On your abortion points: We will accept your challenge and view the film. While it is true that fiber optics can reveal movement of the fetus, the debate still rages, since there are medical people who do not believe the fetus is an autonomous human being. Until there is a consensus within the medical profession, or a court decision, that clearly explains just when a collection of living cells becomes a human being, the debate will continue. Ed.

To the Editor:

Thought your readers should be aware of a new, "Good Neighbor" about to settle in the Hudson Valley. He has indicated that his stay will be limited to thirty years, but, judging by his size and potential impacts, he will be remembered for a very long time after his departure. As a matter of fact, I can be pretty sure his name will be a household word within ten years. I use the term "good neighbor" as a courtesy to him, as he has continually stated that "goodness" is his primary objective, and has spent huge sums to convince us of this.

Our "Good Neighbor" seems, on the surface, to have nothing but our good health and welfare at the top of his priority list, assuring us that our environment will remain safe and clean. As a matter of fact, when I read this potential neighbor's newsletters about his coming to our area, I almost want to help him move. These very newsletters, however, made me a little suspicious, and encouraged me to take a second look. Don't get me wrong, I don't question the existence of good neighbors, as I am fortunate to benefit from a neighborhood full of such folks. It's just that I never saw a neighbor that promised to do so much for me and ask nothing, beyond acceptance, in return.

Our "Good Neighbor" calls himself Inter-Power of New York. Although the name is all-American, Inter-Power of New York is a West German family of industrialists. They intend to build a \$325 million dollar co-generation plant adjacent to GE in Waterford. This plant intends to burn coal to generate steam to drive turbines to produce electricity that NIMO must buy at avoided cost by order of the PURPA law. Excess steam will be supplied to the Silicone Products Division of GE to enable lower cost manufacturing.

Our new neighbor will be large, 220 Megawatt large, the largest coal burner this side of New York City. Their wares consist of yearly supplies such as 7 million pounds of sulfur dioxide; 6+ million pounds of nitrogen oxide; over 100 tons of non-methane hydrocarbons, and 4.2 billion (that's right, billion) pounds of carbon dioxide. I wonder if our new neighbor has ever heard of acid rain or global warming?

Our new friend will burn 800,000 tons of medium to high sulfur coal from mines in Western Pennsylvania. Curiously enough, he also owns large mines in that area. He will ship the coal to the site next to GE on a railroad that unfortunately finds itself dangerously near bankruptcy. He will use the same rail infrastructure to remove the highly contaminated ash from the site for deposit back at his mines.

An interesting point should be made about where our new neighbor will drop his wares. The Hudson Valley is a picturesque,

historic, national treasure. The unfortunate stack height of this facility (350 feet) does not encourage the massive emissions to travel beyond a relatively small impact area of a 31 mile radius. This means that the people who will suffer from our new neighbor's endeavor reside in a small area from Glens Falls to Chatham, and Amsterdam to Williamstown, Massachusetts. This is relatively convenient for these entrepreneurs. The impacts thus skirt the Adirondack Wilderness area and the Lye Brook Wilderness area. Unlike the coal plants in Ohio and Canada, whose impacts are felt in many states and countries, this guy won't affect mass numbers of residents. Just his fellow neighbors, you and I.

Our beautiful Hudson Valley has some drawbacks, and one of them is thermal inversion. This means that a layer of warm air in the upper atmosphere forms an "envelope" that prevents air below from dissipating in a normal manner. The result is a cumulative and progressive build-up of industrial gases and pollutants that is anything but healthy.

The sad part is that our emerging neighbor is being encouraged to exploit our good will and friendship in the name of economic gain for the State. Mario Cuomo is under increasing pressure from downstate (as a result of the closing of Shoreham) to find cheaper, cleaner power for the downstate region. This facility will be cleaner - for New York City. This power will be cheaper - for Long Island. However, we the beneficiaries of our good neighbor's activities, will suffer the degradation of polluted air, threatened watersheds, and higher electric rates for our immediate area.

The only shortage we have in this area is a shortage of cash flow for a select group of West German entrepreneurs. Our good neighbor continually suggests that we should trust them. They tell us we should trust our government to insure that this project is clean, safe and needed.

Ken Dufty
Concerned Citizens for the Environment,
Schaghticoke

From the looks if it, the area may turn into a battleground during the next couple of years since there are more than one proposal to build mass burners in the Capital District. Let us hope that cooler, rational heads prevail. Ed.



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Moratoriums: A Land Use Tool in Rensselaer County

by Richard Crist

For still I see that forethought spares afterthought and after-sorrow.
-Amelia Barr, 1885

JUST AS THE SPRAWLING SUBDIVISIONS and malls went up in southern Rensselaer County, so did the concern and ire of residents who saw the rural character of their communities threatened. Concentrated demands by residents, and in some cases town officials, have led to the passage or proposal of growth measures or moratoriums in three hotbeds of commercial and residential growth — East Greenbush, Schodack and North Greenbush.

Since early this year, East Greenbush has passed a Quality Growth Act, in effect a limited moratorium, and Schodack is scheduled to vote on a proposed six month moratorium. That town has been the scene of heated debate between concerned residents and developers over the proposal, which would halt development for six months.

The efforts of one Schodack group, the East Schodack Moratorium Committee, can serve as a blueprint for other citizen groups considering moratoriums for their towns. All in the space of a month, the group was able to collect close to 3,000 signatures supporting a moratorium and to have the proposal introduced before the town board as a resolution. Those 3,000 signatures are significant considering that the town only counts about 6,000 registered voters on its rolls, and that the normal turnout on election Day is between 4000 and 4500 voters. Consider also that three town board members are up for re-election this year.

BOTH THE level of organization and the timing of the Schodack group are what set it apart from the moratorium or growth control movements in Albany's Pine Bush area and in East Greenbush, which neighbors Schodack. The Albany movement faced the then immovable Corning (now Whalen) administration, and the East Greenbush efforts, led by resident Jeanne Casatelli, met with little support from residents unaware of exactly what was proposed for their community.

The impetus for the Schodack movement came, according to one of the group's organizers, after they learned that Victor Gush, president to VLG Real Estate, and a resident of the town, was proposing over 600 units in three different developments to be located off Route 150 in East Schodack. Residents in the area felt that there would be a great impact from the developments, including increase burden on area roads, already crowded schools, and strains on ground water supplies.

THE GROUP also attended a workshop on moratoriums in the town, held at the request of Supervisor Beth Morgan. "That was a very progressive idea," Sue Mosher, a member of the moratorium committee said recently. "That session got us thinking."

Mosher said that the group wanted to impress the town board that the moratorium could be an election issue. "It was a conscious effort," she said, "in the sense that we wanted to convince the town board that we weren't the only people that felt this way." The petition drive, Mosher stressed, was not aimed at the Gush developments.

Organization and education were keys to the group getting noticed early and having the law proposed before the board within a month at the petition presentation. The group looked to other nearby towns with growth laws or moratoriums including East Greenbush and Kinderhook as guides. The 15 member group met regularly to discuss their plan of action before the board and with the press.

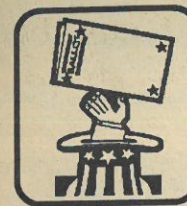
No matter how reasonable or needed a moratorium is, if the measure is proposed without extensive support from residents, the proposal usually falls flat on its face. Jeanne Casatelli, an East Greenbush resident learned that lesson three years ago when she suggested to the town board that they take a more measured approach towards the building boom.

In 1987, Casatelli had little support from either town residents or board members. However, as the projects and subdivisions went from proposals before the planning board to concrete realities in backyards and along crowded highways, Casatelli began to receive more support for her proposal. That support led to the passage of the Quality Growth Act early this year which basically limits residential subdivisions to 20 lots. In Casatelli's estimation, the measure, which she says was "too little, too late," was the result of board members being pressured from residents. "They're never going to admit it," she says, "but those complaints were noticed."

Town Councilman James Wesking, sponsor and author of the growth act said that the board "acted at an appropriate time," instead of "overacting to a vocal few. I think it's unique that we didn't determine that a moratorium was needed," he said. Resident input, in the long run, Wesking admits, was the key factor in the introduction of the bill. "Residents from all over town would approach one and other board members and talk about growth in the community," he said.

Casatelli contends that the measure came too late to have a significant effects on the town, but that the "bad example" of East Greenbush is being noted by neighboring towns. "In Schodack, it's not too late," she says, "and I think other towns are looking here and saying we don't want that to happen here."

Richard Crist is a life-long resident of Rensselaer County and journalist for the East Greenbush Courier.



Will Gerald Jennings Become Albany's Mayor?

by Barbara Grossman

It is through the tongue, the pen, and the press that truth is principally propagated.
-Angelina Grimke, 1836.

WILL GERALD JENNINGS be challenging Thomas Whalen for the Mayor seat in the City of Albany this year? Jennings, Vice-Principal of Albany High School and Alderman for the 11th Ward in Albany, has already defied the Mayor on a number of issues and now finds himself without the endorsement of the Democratic Party in the coming citywide election. But Jennings would rather fight than switch. He won't change parties or run as an independent; he'll run as a Democrat with or without party endorsement. He just hasn't decided yet if he'll be running for a return to this aldermanic seat, or for the position of Mayor. Here Jennings discusses the political situation in Albany and his place in it.

Could you start out by talking about your background in politics - how you got interested in a political career?

I was brought up in North Albany and have been active in politics since I was 17 or 18. My father and grandfather were both involved in politics. It's kind of a family heritage. I became a Democratic Committeeman in 1973, and an alderman in 1977.

Did your father and grandfather hold offices in the city or county governments?

My grandfather was undersheriff of Albany County for many years. My father didn't hold any political office, but was active in North Albany and city politics. It's tough for anyone to grow up in North Albany or any part of the city and not be involved politically. And I enjoy people. Politics — that's a people career. It's enjoyable for me to work with people from all walks of life.

What about your other career, as vice-principal of Albany High School?

I've been employed by the (Albany City School) District since 1971. I taught for four years — three at Schuyler, teaching sociology, history and psychology — and when I got my MS in Education Administration I did my internship here at Albany High School. When the two schools merged, there was an administrative opening. I've been vice-principal of Albany High School — which is a microcosm of the city of Albany because it's the only public high school with students from all neighborhoods in the city of Albany — for ten years now, since I was 30. This is the easy part of my life, compared to politics. The kids are honest, forthright, up front. Politics is a little different ball game. Adults are a different ball game is probably a fairer thing to say.

Why do you think you were dropped from the party ticket, or proposed party ticket, for alderman?

It's unique, I think, because the Democratic organization in this county has never really endorsed Aldermanic candidates at the Democratic convention or committee meeting they hold every year. As far back as I can remember, no aldermanic candidates names are submitted for endorsement by the county organization, so I find it kind of strange that all of a sudden this year the county committee is not endorsing me. I don't know if it holds that much water.

But instead of just not endorsing you, which would be normal, they're sort of de-endorsing you?

Right. To quote my ward leader, Paul O'Brien, they're coming out and saying that I don't seem like I'm a team player: My question to Paul O'Brien has been "What team am I suppose to play on?"

Does the lack of confidence that the Democratic Party shows in you now have to do with your confrontations or disagreement with Mayor Whalen?

I firmly believe the Mayor has not enjoyed my tenure as an alderman in the past few years. I was appointed by Erastus Corning in 1977 when the fellow that was then the alderman moved to Delmar, which vacated the aldermanic seat for about a year and six months. I was appointed for a six month period and had to run for a one year term and then I ran for two full terms after that. Mayor Whalen has not been enamored with me an alderman, but it's strange, because when he was first appointed president of the Common Council he instructed us as common council members to be a deliberative body. He wanted active committees. He wanted recommendations from people who were elected. He didn't want a rubber stamp situation. He encouraged thought on our part on legislation, but as soon as he became mayor, his attitude toward the role of the common council changed drastically.

It's like he's become a different person. I was chairman of the zoning committee, appointed while he was president of the Common Council, and when I'm given a task I do a thorough job. If I came up with a recommendation with which he disagreed, even when several other alderman agreed with me, or our committee agreed on something — the Pine Bush was a prime example — he took exception to our role as a

deliberative zoning committee, or a committee that did a lot of work. I made some recommendations that were counter to what he had envisioned and he couldn't accept it. I think that's where part of the rift between Mayor Whalen and me began. I also didn't like the way he treated many of the people in the city employ.

The Pine Bush has been a major point contention between you and the Mayor. How did your views of development in the Pine Bush differ?

It appeared to me that all of a sudden there was a great urgency to develop everything west of Fuller Road, and as chairman of the zoning committee, after listening to the people who lived out there in residential areas, I became alarmed. There were several zone change hearings — public hearings, before the Common Council, and the people were very emotional and had a lot of points about development or the lack of it, not wanting it. There were a lot of legitimate concerns. I became very involved in what was happening.

It was something that I, as an Albany resident, hadn't been aware existed.

It (the Pine Bush) is something we should treasure and take care of and evaluate very carefully when any kind of development is under consideration. I didn't see that kind of consideration. I asked for a moratorium on building from the Mayor, and that didn't come to fruition. I even won the Nature Conservancy Award in 1983 or 84 for my efforts for conservation. That probably had a lot to do with the grief I took because of my stand. But I had researched what I was doing for 18 to 24 months with many people. There were a couple of zoning changes that came before the council that were referred to the committee, and the committee agreed that the zoning changes should not be allowed. The Mayor disagreed with the committee, and all hell broke loose. And it's been that way ever since.

Why is the Mayor so set on development in the Pine Bush?

Well, obviously, he's very pro-development, but I would have hoped he'd have the foresight to see that if you develop opposite ends of the city you're making them compete with one another. When there's downtown development — which is taking place at a rapid pace — it's good for the city. But when you're in competition with another part of the city, that can allow parking, such as the Pine Bush, then it's not good for the city. It almost creates factions, and you make hasty decisions in development or rezoning and you can't go back and change them.

How could the city's development plans have been better balanced?

There are many things that have to be taken into consideration: conservation, preservation, the role of developers. As far as the Pine Bush goes, studies prove that

the viability of the Pine Bush can be maintained forever by preserving 2000 contiguous acres. Unfortunately, I don't think that preservation is being considered too strongly by the present administration. You see, the Mayor is thin skinned. He doesn't like it when someone disagrees with him. But he won't run me out and he can't intimidate me out.

He has no control over your job with the city school district, has he?

No, but I'm not saying he wouldn't like to.

You disagreed with the Mayor on permit parking in Center Square too, didn't you?

I was against permit parking, because of the domino effect on my ward. It's been proven that permit parking impacts on other wards in the city. People (who can't park in Center Square) park their cars in other parts of the city and then walk to work. I felt it was discriminatory, giving preference to a certain group (Center Square residents) and preferential treatment shouldn't exist. I made my opposition known, and several other aldermen agreed with me.

The permit parking system was supposed to be evaluated during the first year, and the task of evaluation was given to the Transportation Committee of the Common Council, which was chaired by Nancy Burton. Needless to say, the committee recommended that permit parking be continued. I was the dissenting vote.

I then sued the city to do away with permit parking in Washington Park, which upset the Mayor and his legal entourage. The city had been given a grant through the State Office of Parks and Recreation to do some work in Washington Park under the federal Land and Water Conservation Act. The grant prohibited any preferential treatment for use of the park. My suit was upheld, but it was a moot point, because the State Court of Appeals ruled that permit parking was illegal in both Center Square and Washington Park in a suit brought by PEF (the Public Employees Federation) and CSEA (Civil Service Employees Association).

What about lawsuits against development in the Pine Bush?

Save the Pine Bush has challenged some of the zoning changes granted by the city — 30 acres on Karner Road Extension that was slated for commercial development although it was identified as necessary for preservation, Blueberry Hill, the federal Credit Union and others. The city administration has a piecemeal approach to development. They introduced new zone designations for the Pine Bush without regard to the environmental impacts or SEQRA (the State Environmental Quality Review Act of 1968). SEQRA was the basis for the

lawsuit against the Credit Union.

Are there other issues that caused conflicts between you and the mayor?

My strong support of public safety unions in this city — the police and fireman. He took exception to that and to my suggestion about controlling drugs in the city, although I think they're what prompted the Albany Plan. I don't think the Mayor likes to see any name in the paper, unless it's his own, especially if the name belongs to a person opposed to his own position on an issue.

What do you think about Jack McEneny's appointment as deputy county executive? I've heard that he was more or less forced out of city government by Whalen. Is this a signal to the city from the Albany County Democratic Party, and do you think McEneny was put in place to take over for Coyne if things get too hot for the county executive?

Jack McEneny's appointment can be interpreted in a lot of ways. Jimmy was looking for a strong assistant. I won't hypothesize about Jim Coyne's future. A lot of former city employees work for the county. I don't know. I'm not in the inner circle.

Have you seen many changes in city politics since the death of Mayor Corning?

Sure. With every new leader, changes take place. There's a lot of jockeying for position. People are not in politics because they're unambitious. Some people here will stop at nothing to attain a high position. Every leader creates his own following, has his own soldiers and own style, using intimidation or loyalty or just by being a decent person. Different styles abound in this county now. People don't understand that you're perceived differently if you've been in business for four years instead of 40 years. The chair doesn't make the man; the man makes the chair. You don't get the same reactions your predecessor might have.

If you decide to run for another term as alderman without party backing, do you think you can win?

I have no doubt about it. I definitely would have no problem winning my seat back. I listen to the people and I'm not easily intimidated. The easiest thing for them (the city administration) would be for me to back out. It doesn't look good for them for me to run against their candidate and win. My ward leader indicated that all the other ward leaders had contacted him because I put pressure on their elected alderman by voting the way I vote, saying certain things, being their conscience. However, I know for a fact that they don't all feel that way — a handful at most. I guess it bothers elected officials if you say something that strikes a chord in their conscience.

I was told that my stand on the issues undermined the

organization. If so, we have a weak organization. I understand the organization as well as anyone, if not better. I won't be run off my porch by very ambitious people who don't really think about the consequence of their actions, the impact on the people of Albany and the county Democratic Organization.

That's why I asked O'Brien "What team? Who are the team leaders?" Why should I be replaced for my votes on two issues? If I wanted to be difficult, I could be difficult on a lot of legislation, but it's not my style.

WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 26 The Great Labor Uprising

The long depression of the 1870s saw outbursts of worker anger. "Factory girls" went on strike against pay cuts in the mills of Paterson, Passaic and New Brunswick, N.J. in December 1874. When Fall River, Mass. textile companies cut wages by 10% for the second time in a year, women workers walked off their jobs for eight weeks in the summer of 1875. These strikes, although militant, failed to stop reduction of wages.

Women were out in force during the Great Labor Uprising of 1877. A strike that started in Martinsburg, W. Va. among railroad workers who objected to the second pay cut in eight months spread far and wide as railroad and other workers rebelled against depression conditions. Federal troops eventually crushed the strike, but only after pitched battles in several cities; 20 men, women and children were killed by soldiers in Pittsburgh.



Women took part in fierce fighting in Chicago, where a newspaper headline declared: "Bohemian Amazons Rival The Men in Deeds of Violence." The Baltimore Sun reported: "The singular part of the disturbance is in the very active part taken by the women, who are the wives and mothers of the firemen. They look famished and wild, and declare for starvation rather than have their people work for the reduced wages. Better to starve outright, they say, than to die by slow starvation."



The Real Paul Plante Story

by Richard Crist

The ultimate aim of the human mind, in all its efforts, is to become acquainted with Truth.

-Eliza Farnham, 1864

DURING A WALK behind his Poestenkill home, Paul Plante says that he finds peace in the company of tall oak trees, aged and weathered with visible damage from storms past, but still strong and resilient. It may be that Plante, after a rocky three years as director of environmental health for Rensselaer County, and the recently concluded disciplinary hearings brought against him by county officials seeking his dismissal from that post, identifies with those trees and their battle scars. After his own personal and public storms, Plante says that he is still convinced of the rightness of his actions as head of the department perhaps most responsible for the environmental well-being of the county.

Plante may have been the piece that did not belong in the picture of a county-wide growth boom envisioned by county officials and developers. Hired in June, 1986, Plante said that he was assured by officials that he would be able to follow the strict guidelines of the sanitary code. "[County Executive] John S. Buono said that he wanted a man of integrity to get programs on their feet," Plante said. "I characterized it [his arrival on the job] as going in to run a business that had failed. You had to take measures to get it to run on a profit, and come up with corrective measures."

THOSE "corrective measures" won Plante the praise of environmentalists, who had seen the department leaderless for 47 months prior to Plante's hiring.

"He was definitely a strong protector of the environment," Connie Keel, an environmental activist from Hoosic said. "I think that was needed at that point, since it was obvious that environmental protection wasn't a top priority for the county, with so many problems and failures with septic systems," she said. A State Department of Health report found that those same measures, which Plante said included a rigid adherence to county guidelines on septic systems and other sewage disposal devices on homes, soon got Plante into trouble with developers and builders who saw Plante as a hindrance to the seemingly inevitable growth boom awaiting the county. Often, Plante says, he was bypassed by developers who would go to his boss, Van Praag for help on a subdivision approval without Plante's approval of the project, as required by county guidelines. Van Praag would not comment on the Plante's case until a decision is made by the hearing officer, who will recommend to Buono if Plante should be fired.

Plante said he realized there were problems in the Health Department and [county] administration that needed to be dealt with. "By the time I got there, in 1986, I don't think there was a lot of respect for the department on the state level, or among the citizens of the county." Aside from problems with staff moral and in-

adequate training for some staff members, Plante said that he asked Buono in July of 1986 to voice his support for strict enforcement of the sanitary code. An appropriate time Plante suggested, would be during the annual state of the county address to be made in early 1987. Buono hedged on taking a strong position for strict enforcement.

That refusal, Plant said, was the turning point in the county's troubles over the sanitary code and its enforcement. "If John Buono had done in 1987 what I recommended, there would be no problems as we know it." Developers and builders, Plant said, instead received signals from the executive branch, despite Buono's repeated assertion that he would "not be bulldozed by developers," that Rensselaer County had an open door for developers.

THAT "open door" policy was exactly what the county intended, according to an East Greenbush developer, Steven Anderson of East Greenbush, who has initiated several lawsuits against the county and state for their refusal (initiated by Plante) of his Spruce Run Phase 3 subdivision. Anderson said that the county had initiated their own water and sewer authority, approved by the State Legislature in 1986, to encourage large-scale residential growth in the area. Development could proceed with package sewer systems summarily hooked into the sewer lines owned by the county and added to the tax base. The sewer authority would also attract large commercial development like shopping malls.

Smaller developments, Anderson said, including his Spruce Run, which relied on septic or fill systems independent of sewer lines, weren't given the same treatment. Anderson said he had received verbal approval for the third phase of his development from Plante, but that Plante reneged on the promise. The result was a half-million dollar loss for Anderson.

BY THE end of 1987 and early part of 1988, Anderson, and a number of other developers who felt that Plante was unfair in his dealings, were pressuring Buono on Plante. Several developers, Anderson said, who were major contributors to Buono's political efforts, were among those angered by Plante's stance.

That pressure was coupled with a steady stream of media attention on tensions between Plante and builders. "It got to be a name recognition thing" Plante said of the increasingly polarized situation. "It became the thing to take sides around, for sides to attack each other, throw more dirt at each other and get names in the papers."

Buono, a Republican, said that some of those names

included possible Democratic candidates for County Executive in 1989, notably Majority leader of the Legislature, Marylyn Douglas.

The whole Plante situation, Buono said, "Started going downhill when the Democrats had their Anti-Plante campaign," a reference to the series of public hearings sponsored by Democratic-controlled Health Committee of the legislature "That created a politicized environment," Buono said, "when he had been working with people they never let the guy address the charges."

DOUGLAS DENIED that the hearings were political opportunism for her party, which has never held the County Executive's position. Instead, the hearings were a response to a steady stream of complaints by residents angered by Plante's actions.

The hearings, held at different locations throughout the county, were intended to placate those angered or confused by Plante or Health Department regulations, which included, as Douglas notes, at least three different manuals for the same standards. Instead, the hearings brought tension to a fever pitch. From the onset, the hearings were pitched battles between environmentalists certain that Plante was the best safeguard against destruction of the county's rural character, and developers believing that Plante was taking bread off their tables. Before the hearing in East Greenbush, one town builder hung Plante in effigy outside the entrance to the town hall. That scene, and the hearings, were a constant in the print and electronic media, with negative ramifications for Buono.

Those tensions, the damage to the Buono administration, and an action by Plante, paved the way for his suspension in October last year. Just before the release of the Health Committee's report on the hearings, and their recommendations, Plante appeared on an evening newscast charging that legislator Daniel Ashely had threatened to kill him. Plante also charged that county officials and businessmen had been involved in a land fraud scheme that involved illegal approvals for residential subdivisions.

That bombshell prompted Buono to order Plante to either substantiate the charges or face suspension. To this date, Buono has said, he has not received documentation from Plante on either charge.

Van Praag informed Plante of his suspension or dismissal as Plante vigorously terms it. "He told me specifically, 'Paul, you have upset some of the most powerful people in Rensselaer County and I can no longer protect you.'"

Plant says that the suspension was a form of damage control for Buono's re-election hopes in 1989. "John Buono can't afford to alienate Republican high rollers. At that point, I think he decided he had been hurt enough."

PLANT DECIDED not to take his suspension quietly, and presented a strong defense against the county's charges. The most intriguing aspect of the disciplinary hearing was the county's charges of rudeness and insubordina-

tion. None of the charges address Plante's handling of engineering matters. Plante's position was perhaps best aided by the release of the State Department of Health report, requested by Buono on Plante's allegation, released during the hearings.

The report found that there had been deficiencies in the Health Department's chain of command, namely Van Praag, and prompted a District Attorney's investigation into developments that may have been sold at three separate sites with improper approvals. One of those sites, the Winfield Estates subdivision in Brunswick, counts Republican State Senator Joseph Bruno among its investors. The report also stated that "It is clear that Mr. Plante's concerns about its integrity are justified. The public health and the environment are threatened by an inordinate number of sewage systems failures, which are the legacy of mismanaged programs in prior years." Of systems installed before Plante's tenure, 97 septic failures were noted between 1986-88.

AWAITING WORD on his fate with the county, Plante, developers, public officials, and environmentalists are trying to assess what lays ahead for the county and its natural resources. Plante said that the department has lapsed back into its unsteady course common before his tenure. "They've gone right back to 1986. Back to a laissez-faire handling of the problems."

Peter Staniels, immediate past president of the county Board of Realtors, said that the effects of the tension between Plante and builders are still evident today. "The situation has not been completely resolved. Things have begun to take a different turn, but the whole thing still boils down to whether they (developers) can build houses or not. A lot of builders won't build due to the whole scenario."

Anderson agrees with Staniels, and said that the "boom was missed out by the county. They missed the market and it will be several years before the same opportunities are available."

The Ad Hoc Committee of engineers and former Health Department officials, Buono said, is still readying their report on the county Health Department regulation on septic and sewer systems in the county. "They're trying to make sense out of the regulations....putting them together in one package so there is no question or confusion about what's needed."

Those regulations will have to be strictly enforced, asserted Judith Enck, an environmental activist from Poestenkill, if the county's natural resources are to be maintained. "I would definitely hope that the priority he [Plante] tried to give to the department stays there....whoever's put in that position should put environmental protection as their top priority. It's a tough job."

Richard Crist is a life-long resident of Rensselaer County and journalist for the East Greenbush Courier.



Remembrance of Idealisms Past

by Monica G. Finch

Ideals determine government, and government determines social life, and social life, with all that the term connotes, is the essence of every literature.
-Florence Ayscough, 1921

I REALLY DIDN'T start feeling my age until very recently. It's just struck me that I'm working with some people who are young enough to be my kids. That isn't so bad. As a matter of fact, it's very interesting, sometimes.

Like the other day when they were talking about the movie "Volunteers" which spoofed the 60s, the peace movement, the Peace Corps, and the rest of the liberal litany. What did hurt was their derision: In one scene they showed all these kids on a plane headed overseas with the Peace Corps. They were singing 'If I Had a Hammer' and reading 'Profiles in Courage.'" Quickly I jumped in and explained that we *really* did believe in those things.

As incongruous as it sounds in this predatory, climb-over-corpses Age of the Yuppie, yes, we were true believers. We believed, perhaps naively, that if everyone did just a little bit to alleviate social problems, surely the general condition of mankind would improve. We all were in school to become teachers, psychologists, sociologists, each doing his or her own thing, adding something to the world rather than only taking from it. What we didn't realize then was that you can't build a career on altruism.

THINGS DIDN'T quite work out. One friend went to Africa with the Peace Corps and, to this day, has periodic bouts of malaria. Other friends went to Vietnam. The classically handsome, bright high school jock came home minus an arm and a leg. Some came back psychologically maimed. Others never came back.

I really can't pinpoint when the shining bright light of our idealism finally burned out. Maybe it was when the reality hit that our beliefs and dreams and even our sacrifices weren't enough to make a dent in the world's problems. In a short time our idealism turned to bitter frustration and chagrin. Somehow we felt deceived, foolish, even used. Maybe that's where the Yuppie philosophy and work ethic come from, the seems of our disillusionment and despair.

In time we all burned out. We cut our hair, shed our fatigue jackets and faded jeans for business suits and joined dad's insurance or law firm. We burned out and then we felt we had to sell out. It is sad to think that we felt foolish about the very best part of our humanity.

I'M STILL in contact with a psychologist from those undergraduate years. She's still teaching and lecturing, but not to the number of psychology majors she once had. The number of her advisees has dropped dramatically over the years. Most of the student

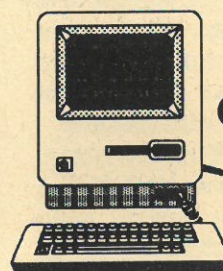
population is concentrated in the business, marketing, computer science, and law disciplines. Getting it *now* means everything. No sense in thinking about anyone else. This is the "go for it" generation where winning is everything and the only thing to be ashamed of is getting caught.

I can't help but believe that, in many ways, we were better off. Our values were more centered and benign, our hearts were in the right place no matter how foolish we may have appeared. But now there is something cold, meat-eating, even sinister, about this new generation, something mechanical and unemotional and unstoppable.

Yes, I'm fast approaching that "F"-word . . . "forty" that is. I try to reexamine and reassess the past 20 years and find some validity and purpose in the era of my youth. In the end I keep coming up with the impression that we were more complete people, enough so that we had the courage to offer parts of our lives to others. Somehow I don't think selling junk bonds can provide the same sense of fulfillment.

Obviously things didn't turn out the way we hoped, but I'm proud to have been part of a generation which cared enough to try.

Monica Finch is a free lance writer who lives in Schenectady.



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Connected Education Ties You in Through EIES

by David G. Hays

Readers are plentiful: thinkers are rare.
Harriet Martineau, 1837

CAN YOU MURDER an android?
Can you get an education through a bulletin board?
Paul Levinson answers the first question in his course on "Artificial Intelligence and Real Life". He answered the second -- YES -- by organizing Connected Education. Connect_Ed courses earn credit in the New School for Social Research, a well-known New York City institution. The courses are taught through EIES, the Electronic Information Exchange System based at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

How old are these characters? The New School is 46 years old. It was founded by refugees from the Nazis. EIES is 14 years old, making it the oldest open educational BBS. Connect_Ed is 4-1/2 years old, founded by Levinson, who studied with Marshall McLuhan. Levinson says, "McLuhan is a thinker whose ideas about the impact of media I consider crucial to an understanding of our world." The android, female, is only a year old but looks to be 21. Paul Levinson looks to be about 40.

Students from 26 states are taking Connect_Ed courses, some for the knowledge alone, some for an MA in Media Studies. College undergraduates can also get credit for these courses. Courses run for two months: Fall (Oct-Nov), Wintersession (Dec-Jan), Spring (Feb-March), Springtersession (April-May), and Summer (June-July).

Besides classrooms, the Connect_Ed electronic campus has a cafe for social visits with faculty, students, and visitors. It has a technical forum to help with electronic problems. It has a library, newsletter, bookstore, and job list.

Information about the program is available from Connected Education, 92 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, New York 10463 (212-549-6509). E-mail addresses are: aah298 (The Source), 72517,3107 (Compuserve), Connected Education (MCI Mail), and Levin@dde1PL.das.net (Internet, including Bitnet). Before you call, you need this information from the catalogue:

Each course carries three graduate or undergraduate credits. Graduate credits applicable to New School MA in Media Studies Degree upon matriculation; awarding of graduate credit assumes possession of earned bachelor's degree and completion of New School registration. Undergraduate credit is general New School Adult Division credit.

Tuition: \$316 per credit (\$948 per course) graduate, \$296 per credit (\$888 per course) undergrad and non-credit. Registration fees: \$60 graduate, \$20 undergrad and non-credit. These fees include all necessary connect time for courses with exception of local call to data packet network.

In the fall, I'll be teaching a course myself. Here's the catalogue description:

Evolution of Technology in its Sociocultural Matrix: A survey of the facts about invention, innovation, and diffusion from stone tools through fifteen to twenty past civilizations up to the present: materials, energy, information. Connections between technology and science, government, society, and ways of thinking. Theory of cultural transformation. How different senses of the meaning of life and different concepts of investment are reflected in technological change. Criteria of appropriateness for technology. Students will exchange critical notes on readings; each will specialize on a place and period or on a theoretical point and submit working notes for discussion, ending with a long paper.

And an outline:

I - Intro: History = who, what, where, when ... evolution adds how and why ... Eden, Athens, Florence, New York ... from family to super power ... wheels, weapons, wires ... fathoming the unfathomable ... appreciation vs. approval ... will tomorrow ever come?

II - Ranks, revolutions, and paideias: The four ages of music, and everything else ... lore, practice, engineering, and systemics ... materials as an example ... the civilizations that have risen and mostly fallen ... antiquity, renaissance, industry, and today.

III - Politics, policies, and propaganda: Becoming leaders and followers ... the parable of the tribes ... war and the threat of war as stimulant and selector ... the functions of government ... the technology of control ... the technology of self-determination.

IV - Energetics: Power from animals, meteorology, chemical changes, and nuclear reactions ... conversions and applications ... second-order effects ... third-order effects.

V - Investment, with a life-cycle cost analysis of one individual human being: Skill ... land ... factory ... organization ... education ... uncertainty ... obsolescence ... net worth of the planet ... stages of a life ... inputs and outputs ... balance

VI - Informatics: Speech, writing, calculation, computation ... contexts of communication ... what computers do ... what networks do ... valuing information ... the future of work.

VII - Appropriate technology: Attributes of technologies, a recapitulation ... ecological considerations ... human needs and human capacities ... criteria of appropriateness ... tolerating change ... fostering change ... development at home and abroad.

VIII - They did the best they knew how: The history of technology, a reprise ... the rise and fall of civilizations, a reprise ... the high cost of progress (blood, sweat, and tears) ... how good are our explanations of technological

progress? ... the future, if any.

If you enroll in this course you'll find text and bibliography that I prepared waiting for you when you first enter EIES. You'll download some (Connect_Ed is usable with any desktop computer, modem, and standard communications software), read, and write some comments. I may suggest questions, but you students who enroll in a system like this are bound to have initiative and curiosity. You'll think of your own questions.

And, of course, you'll read other students' questions on-line, and probably respond to their points as much as I do. Just like any BBS. Connect_Ed also allows students and teachers to exchange messages privately, and real-time sessions can be run.

What else will they do, these students in the electronic classroom? Different things in different courses. The question of murdering an android is settled in a mock trial, where students play judge, jury, and all the other parts. But all students read widely; the published literature is not forgotten. In my course, each student will read for general background and to become expert in a small part of the subject. I've been imagining term papers like "The uses of ceramics in 14th century China and France", or "Three techniques that Christendom borrowed from Moslem Spain", or "Twentieth-century takeoff: How technological modernism shifted into high gear".

For more samples of what students study, here are entries from the summer 1989 catalogue, courses that will run during June and July:

Issues in International Telecommunications, Paul Levinson, Jerome Glenn, Tony Kaye. This course examines the growing use of telecommunications across national boundaries in business, entertainment, and education. Attention is paid to the necessary technologies, and the legal, political, and social effects of such cross-pollination. Issues include: Are existing national laws and customs sufficient to regulate transnational communication? How is the balance of centralization and decentralization changing with the increasing availability of satellite dishes and personal computers in many parts of the world? What are the possibilities of "electronic glasnost"? Course work includes generation of serious proposals for improvement of international telecommunications. Taught by faculty in New York City, Washington DC, and London.

Cybernetics and Poetry, Lionel Kearns and Gerri Sinclair. This online workshop uses the key concepts of cybernetics, semiotics and communication theory as a context for the reading, writing, and revising of poetry. In addition to the theoretical content, students read and comment on the creative work of other course members. This course is useful for potential or practicing writers, critics, and maverick bricoleurs of the English language.

Science Fiction and Myth in the Space Age, Sylvia Engdahl. This course examines the emerging mythology of the Space Age, with emphasis on its expression in science fiction films and other mass-audience media. Us-

ing as a starting point the acclaimed Joseph Campbell video series and book *The Power of Myth*, the course considers the positive role of myth in individual lives and in society, applying this concept to the worldwide technological society of planet Earth. Focus is on similarities and contrasts between traditional myths and those represented by popular science fiction, which are in many respects more meaningful in today's culture. Study of specific films and TV series, such as Star Wars and Star Trek, is included.

Desktop Publishing, Ari Davidow. This course covers the new potential that low cost desktop publishing systems have, both for existing large organizations and for smaller enterprises. The emphasis here is on the use of personal computing and printing equipment for the production of finished hard-copy -- interchangeable with the products of traditional printing houses. Major hardware and software options and costs are explored for IBM, Macintosh and Atari ST-based systems along with relative ease of use and which kinds of applications are best suited to each. Focus on the use of desktop technologies for the preparation and publication of reports, pamphlets, in-house newsletters and catalogs, and government materials.

And from spring 1989:

Technological Forecasting, Joseph Martino. Growth curves, curve fitting, trend extrapolation, limits of trends, technological substitution, and indicator gathering. Students prepare a forecast of technology of their choice, using the methods taught.

Artificial Intelligence and Real Life, Paul Levinson. Is protein necessary for intelligence? What is the connection between evolution and intelligence? Can reason be designed? What are the moral implications of AI?

Technology and Religion, Frank Giannizzero. Early Christianity and monastic communities of education and technology; print technology and its impact on the Bible and tract societies; the impact of new electronic media upon religion.

Philosophy and Technology, Wolfgang Schirmacher. The inter-relationships of technology, science, and the social and natural environment. How can we handle serious questions about communication, language, privacy, ecological crises, biotechnology, and nuclear war?

Telecommunication Applications, Tom Hargadon. New media and their social impact: computer networks, satellite communications, teleconferencing, telecommuting, data bases, electronic banking.

Privacy and Telecommunications, Brock N. Meeks. Legislation could take away the "free speech" aspect of telecommunications, by imposing laws and regulations, or provide online communication the same protections afforded the spoken and printed word. Ownership of online information; electronic pornography; right to electronic privacy.



KIDSHELP - Blueprint for the Future

by Christopher M. Papa

Children are a bridge joining this earth to a heavenly paradise.
Lydia M. Child, 1836

The most important lesson we can teach our children is how to care: how to care for each other, for their community, for their country, for themselves, for their future. No, let's correct that, our future.

The problems that confront society today are myriad and exasperating. Little hope exists because hope has not been fostered to the extent which would effect a great change throughout the world. Great people have inspired great movements toward positive change, but not enough has been done to bolster the magnanimous spirit in children.

I believe the solution to many of the problems in our schools lies not in the financial wizardry of government and individual districts, but rather in the using those resources we have in great abundance — the children themselves.

Children learn from other children. This is a fundamental maxim of schooling. We shudder at the bad habits children acquire through assimilation in school, yet, to a great extent we virtually ignore the positive effect of this grouping. Children must be retaught to help each other. Retought, because society has undone that fundamental human virtue of giving and caring. "Look out for number one," the outcry of many, is a cry of defeat. We must look out for each other. Let's begin instilling this attitude of community early. We must show our children that they can trust each other, look to others with confidence that an extended hand will be warmly grasped and embraced.

In 1986 I had an idea that the best teachers in my school were not those professionally trained, but rather the children. Those same children who were learning my lessons were intrinsically yearning to be teachers themselves. That's when I formed KIDSHELP, a peer tutoring network throughout school whose philosophy is simple, "Kids helping kids."

Granted, this may not be a revolutionary idea, but it's a sound concept that bears emphasis in schools and communities alike. KIDSHELP is all volunteer; all involved do so freely, giving their time to help others.

The rewards are intrinsic. This is not social club or a student council reaching out for commendable pursuits, but a school body reaching within its ranks to help those with special needs.

In practice, KIDSHELP is set up as follows:

1. The KIDSHELP coordinator canvasses faculty members through a friendly letter to determine what the special needs of their students. For example, a 4th grader is having difficulty with his/her handwriting. He or she could use some one-to-one time practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 to 12:35.

2. An assembly is held for older students explaining the rationale to KIDSHELP and a pool of student teachers is es-

tablished along with individual interests and strengths. For example, an 8th grader prefers to work with a student having math problems.

3. The KIDSHELP coordinator then works closely with master teachers (individual classroom teachers) and student teachers to make sure their assignments are clear and appointments kept. Tutoring assignments and appropriate hallway passes are duly noted in a binder kept in The KIDSHELP Resource Center — which in this case is my classroom. The Resource Center is available for use during recess daily and is always staffed by the coordinator or a master teacher.

4. Most tutoring assignments are outside the resource center. Student Teachers will pick up their passes and check out with the coordinator. Upon arriving at their destinations they will check in with their respective master teacher and work with their individual student one-to-one for the allotted time. When the KIDSHELP session is over the pass is returned until the next tutoring session.

5. Student Teachers are encouraged to complete assessments of their tutoring sessions. These records are of great use to classroom teachers. Most comments are candid and to the point. For example, "My pupil needs extra work with his writing. I wish he'd do more writing at home. ... Besides, he gets easily distracted in class. I wish we could work somewhere else. He just sits there and expects me to do all the writing." Such information is shared with individual master teachers.

All in all, the KIDSHELP experience is equally rewarding for pupil and tutor alike. Pupils get the extra personal contact that may make the significant difference between a win/lose situation and at the same time make a new friend.

The idea that someone else cares enough to give up their time to help them is a wonderful experience. It is KIDSHELP's hope that if this experience is fostered and supported it will be shared. The rippling effect of children helping each other through school is an idea whose time has come.

It is time for schools to look to children and address their individual needs. Allow children to help each other and not look to teachers alone as the panacea. The possibilities are endless. If children's belief in themselves is encouraged and they are taught to learn from each other then maybe we'll raise citizens who readily support educational reforms and are willing to give back to future generations that which money cannot buy — love and trust, that each child is the hope of the world.

Anyone wishing to learn more about these ideas may contact me: Christopher M. Papa, c/o KIDSHELP Wynantskill Union Free School District, P. O. box 345 Wynantskill, New York 12198



At the Movies...

by Matt Hough

TWO OUT OF THREE

TOUCHSTONE PICTURE'S newest anthology film "New York Stories" is alternately intriguing, irritating, and inspired. As with all films which are composed of individual segments ("Twilight Zone: The Movie" was the last big hit to do this), the film's entertainment value seesaws giddily with each changing episode. Luckily for "New York Stories," two of the three segments have enough horsepower in directing, writing and acting to satisfy thoroughly. Craftily, the two best segments have been placed at the beginning and end of the picture.

EACH SECTION of this film has behind it a directorial powerhouse. For "Life Lessons," the first installment, Martin Scorsese helms Nick Nolte and Rosanna Arquette through some familiar Scorsese territory: a volatile man in a state of personal limbo due to his frustrating involvement with a woman.

We've already seen Scorsese deal with this situation more completely in "Taxi Driver," "New York, New York," and "Raging Bull," and the combination here isn't as mesmerizing mainly due to less talented actors involved in the brief story. Nolte is certainly grubby enough as a hounded world-class artist (very close to his intellectual bum in "Down and Out in Beverly Hills"), but he doesn't grip us by the throat the way De Niro did in the other pictures. Arquette, of course, plays somewhat flaky women well (as in "Desperately Seeking Susan"), but the Nolte-Arquette team shoots no sparks here.

Scorsese's masterful hand, though, can't be ignored even if his actors aren't brilliant. His tight shooting and razor sharp editing depicts the frenzy of artistic inspiration outstandingly, and he constantly holds our attention as the actors play out their little drama. A late view of a triple exposure on one of Nolte's paintings is the single most stunning shot in the picture. Scorsese's tale may not be unforgettable, but his handling of it is superb.

ALAS, THE SAME can't be said for Francis Ford Coppola's dud "Life Without Zoe." Attempting a whimsical trifle featuring a young girl's adventures in the Big Apple with celebrity parents too busy to wet-nurse her, Coppola fails miserably with this lead balloon of a comedy.

There are numerous problems not only with the script but also with the acting of the child performers and Coppola's direction. Francis and Sofia Coppola's weak story concentrates on rich children who are far more adept at coping with life than their air-headed parents, hardly a convincing or entertaining notion. The children aren't very

Entertainment relates to people and is a phenomenon of life.
Hannah Arendt, 1960

convincing actors, and the overt consumerism these label-conscious kids show is more than a bit repugnant.

Coppola's direction of such fantasy is as flat as stale beer. Having shown a sprightly touch with his 1967 "Finian's Rainbow," Coppola's heavy hand here is evident in lumbering slapstick that isn't funny and a mock adventure that isn't thrilling. Frankly, "Zoe" is a worthwhile 33 minute nap in between the film's two good portions.

LEAVE IT TO Woody Allen, though, to provide the lift to send one out of the theater in stitches. His "Oedipus Wrecks" takes the Jewish mother bit Allen has used in many of his comedies literally to surreal heights of hilarity.

Allen stars as a middle aged man ready to settle down with a woman (Mia Farrow) whom Mama (Mae Questel) doesn't approve of. Tired of her meddlesome aggravation, he wishes she would disappear, and she does for a time only to turn up in the most unlikely of places. To say more would spoil one of Allen's funniest conceits, but suffice to say the gimmick is heavenly.

"NEW YORK STORIES" isn't a total success mainly because each of these filmmakers has sustained our interest through entire features before. These baubles even at their best can't replace the masterful work each of the men is capable of at his finest. Until future full length pieces are available, however, this film is certainly worthy of our time and attention.

Rating: 3 Stars
(4=Excellent, 3=good, 2=fair, 1=poor)

Matt Hough has been reviewing movies in various media since 1968. For 11 years, he was the film writer for the Tri-County Syndicate of South Carolina. His film reviews have also appeared in, among other publications, The Dallas Sun, the Music Gazette, BoxOffice, The Millionaire, and Q-Notes. He is now HARDCOPY's film reviewer and industry analyst.



Who is Sharon Kowalski and Why Can't She Come Home?

by Margo Berch Matzdorf

I am not afraid to trust my sisters - not I.
Angelina Grimke, 1836

AT THE APRIL 9th March for Women's Lives/Women's Equality in Washington, D.C. there were thousands of clever and colorful signs demonstrating support for women's reproductive rights. Some of my favorite slogans were: Send Operation Rescue to Alaska, Mountaineers for Choice, Artists for Pro-Creative Choice, METS Fans for Choice, and Don't Wade in Roe. A sign carried on the back of a small black dog declared "Mother of Nine: Support Reproductive Rights!"

Banners proclaimed support of the ERA - another focus of the day. There were also scattered signs here and there claiming "Solidarity with Sharon Kowalski" and demanding "Let Sharon Go Home." Such a sign was carried by Robin, one of the hundreds of pro-choice demonstrators who took the buses down from Albany. It was taped to the side of her wheelchair.

Instead of discussing the rally, I thought I would write about Sharon, whose story is truly powerful. If you think it's tough enough being a woman in our society, or that it's rough if you have a disability, think again about how difficult life might be if you are a disabled lesbian.

SHARON KOWALSKI, a 32-year old lesbian, was severely disabled as a result of an automobile accident in November 1983. After the accident Karen Thompson told Sharon's parents about her nine-year lesbian relationship with Sharon. Soon afterwards the Kowalski's sought, and received in 1984, unconditional guardianship of Sharon after charging Thompson to be a "detrimental and depressing influence" on Sharon. Sharon was confined to a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota where she received little rehabilitation and was prevented from seeing any visitors not approved by her father.

Since 1984 Karen Thompson has been pursuing legal actions for proper medical care for Sharon, as well as the right to visit and help care for her. In September 1987 Thompson filed a motion for restoration of Kowalski to capacity and competency tests were asked. Tests were ordered in July 1988, over the strenuous objections of Sharon's father, even though guardianship laws require annual testing.

Following positive results from the tests, in December 1988 a Judge ordered that Sharon be moved from the nursing home to a medical center in Duluth and begin rehabilitation therapy. Sharon's evaluation indicated that she was able to express herself and could benefit greatly from rehabilitation. The order stated that Sharon could have visitation with whomever she specifically and reliably requested to visit. The order stated that Sharon needed "appropriate therapy" to assist her in dealing with the conflict between her parents and Thompson. Sharon's

parents opposed the order, arguing that her move would be detrimental, and that there was nothing new to be learned or gained from further testing or additional therapy. The court reaffirmed Kowalski's guardianship over his daughter.

IN FEBRUARY Karen was allowed to visit Sharon for the first time since 1985. Sharon's psychologist said Sharon "got tears in her eyes" when she saw Karen. Karen, however, was distressed by the deterioration of some aspects of Sharon's physical condition, such as the tendons in her legs. Karen expects to visit Sharon as often as she can make the four-hour drive from St. Cloud. The doctors will be providing progress reports to the Judge, who will have to make more decisions about Sharon's future.

A National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski is working to ensure that Sharon receives rehabilitation and will be reunited with Karen. Karen hopes to move Sharon from Duluth to transitional and then independent living in St. Cloud. For more information about Sharon Kowalski, I recommend reading Karen's book about her fight to free Sharon, *Why Can't Sharon Come Home?*

Margo Berch Matzdorf is Chairperson of the Capital District Women's Political Caucus (CDWPC).

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Stonewalling: Twenty Years of Lesbian & Gay Pride

by Libby Post

*You say you're going to have a revolution.
Beatles*

"STONEWALL" — no I'm not going to write a column about Stonewall Jackson nor about the fine art of obfuscating a situation (i.e. stonewalling).

For the lesbian and gay community, Stonewall conjures up a totally different meaning. It represents the beginning of the "out" modern day lesbian and gay movement.

Fed up with police harassment, raids and arrest, the patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village took to the streets on June 27, 1969 in protest. This sparked three consecutive nights of riots by hundreds of lesbians and gay men and took us out of the closet forever. After the Stonewall Riots, our movement was transformed from small pockets of activism to large-scale grassroots organizing.

This June marks twenty years since those riots and those of us in the Capital District have much to be proud of. We were one of the first communities nationwide to purchase our own Community Center. We elect candidates and we organize around a host of political issues which affect us. We disrupted Albany Common Council meetings in order to obtain our civil rights on a local level. While the ordinances did not pass, our actions accentuated the hypocrisy and deceit of the Albany Democratic Machine. We are the host community to the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby — which the *Times Union* calls "the powerful homosexual lobby" — and coordinate statewide activity.

WE ARE here and are not going away. We are out and are staying out. And to celebrate these twenty years of growth and action, the Stonewall Coalition — a myriad group of organizations such as the Lobby, the Community Center and the STOP AIDS project — have come together to organize twenty days of events — one day for each year since the Stonewall Riots.

Beginning on Sunday, June 11, the Stonewall Celebration will include concerts, multi-media presentations, forums, softball games, barbecues, vigils and a boat ride. Here are some of the Twenty Days' highlights:

• Sunday, June 11: Kick-Off Concert: Joyce Hunter, co-founder of New York City's Harvey Milk School will present "From Stonewall to Now" followed by Lea Delaria and Richard Weinstock in *Bull Dyke in a China Shop*, 7 p.m., SUNYA Page Hall.

• Tuesday, June 13: Pot-luck dinner followed by *Dyke Trivia* game, 6 p.m., Women's Building.

• Thursday, June 15: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays panel discussion; 7 p.m., Albany Public Library.

• Friday, June 16: *Act Up* vigil, 12-6 p.m., call 463-1051 for

information.

• Saturday, June 17: Gay Men's Chorus, SUNYA Page Hall, 8 p.m.

• Sunday, June 18: *Lavender Genesis: The Freeing of the Spirit*, on lesbian and gay recovery, at Al-Care, 445 New Karner Road. Day-long gathering.

• Wednesday, June 21: Boat Ride along the Hudson, 7 p.m. departure, \$20-\$30.

• Tuesday, June 27: Softball Game between Albany City Police and Lesbian & Gay Community.

• Friday, June 30: Closing Concert, *The Flirtations*, SUNYA Page Hall, 7 p.m.

For information on the above events, call 462-6138.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER is also sponsoring buses down to New York for the 20th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. For more information, call Tom at 462-2974.

So come to one event or all the events. They're not just for lesbians and gay men. All events are open to everyone. As lesbians and gay men, we know plenty about heterosexual society and history. These twenty days of events gives the non-lesbian and gay community the opportunity to show support and learn about the vibrant culture we are celebrating this June.

THE STONEWALL RIOTS and their aftermath have had a great effect on our community. Not only in terms of organizing ourselves into a coherent political, cultural and social force but also in terms of how the straight community deals with us. We still don't have full civil rights and portraying a lesbian or gay person and/or couple on prime time TV can turn into a commercial sponsorship nightmare. But we have educated people — and that can be half the battle.

Below are just a few tidbits of information, culled from "The Gay Book of Lists," which are interesting and not that well known.

Famous Lesbian and Gay Relationships (and how long they lasted):

- Romaine Brooks and Natalie Barney, 53 years.
- Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, 39 years.
- Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy, 32 years.
- W. Somerset Maugham and Gerald Haxton, 30 years.

- Rock Hudson and Marc Christian, 4 years.

Some Famous Men Who Have Publicly Denied Being Gay:

- Boy George
- Roy Cohn
- Troy Donahue
- Daryl Hall
- Michael Jackson
- Jack Kemp
- Ed Koch
- Liberace

And thanks to rampant homophobia,

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- Smoking Marijuana
- Astrological Influences
- Masturbation
- Vasectomy
- Too many women teachers
- Atavism
- Uncut Meat

Eleven cures for Homosexuality:

- Aversion therapy
- Castration

- Diet therapy
- Drug therapy
- "The Love of a Good Woman"
- Lobotomy
- Physical therapy
- Radiation therapy
- Anaphrodisiac therapy
- Shock treatment
- Torture, exorcism and death

IF YOU'D like some more of these tidbits of info, purchase *The Gay Book of Lists*, by Leigh Rutledge, published by Alyson Publications, 1987.

Libby Post is the co-chair of the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby, and a regular columnist for HARDCOPY.



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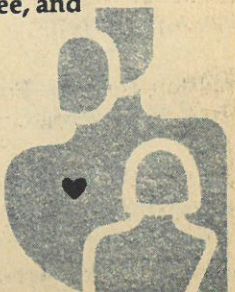
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"We Appreciate What You've Been Through, But..." Or: "Cannon Factory" Blues

by Dave Millard

And its 1, 2, 3, what are we fighting for?
— Country Joe and the Fish

DURING THE LATE 60's and early 70's the kazoo band sound of Country Joe McDonald's "I feel like I'm fixin to die rag," could be heard around the world. The refrain wafted across the nation at anti-war gatherings, hundreds of underground (progressive?) FM stations played it as a matter of course, and 10,000 miles from the domestic insanity of the U.S. this little tune even raised its ugly head amidst the carnage of the Vietnam war. Not exactly the type of music that the commanders liked their troops to listen too, it was never heard on Armed Forces Radio-Vietnam, but bootlegged cassettes of this tune were everywhere.

I dare say that Country Joe's ditty was, among the GI's, second in popularity only to The Animals' "We've got to get out of this place," which was fondly known as the Vietnam National Anthem. In answer to the question posed by Country Joe McDonald in his song, most GI's soon realized that what they were fighting for was SURVIVAL! Nothing more. Nothing less. Today most veterans who served in Vietnam are productive well-adjusted members of our society. For too many, however, the ongoing tragedy of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), often of drug and alcohol abuse, makes daily life a fight for survival. As if, for them, the war had never ended.

ALTHOUGH VETERANS so afflicted are in the minority, with estimates of perhaps five- to six-hundred thousand out of the millions who served, enough veterans have these problems that we all, on a daily basis, work, play, and live with people who are "just not the same since the war." Studies now show that many of the emotional and physical problems that WWII and Korean War combat vets have today may be rooted in long-suffered, but undiagnosed, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. For these veterans the struggle for daily survival is not unlike that of their Vietnam vet brothers; they too struggle with anxiety, intrusive thoughts, hypervigilance, and all of the other maladies of PTSD (including substance abuse) while attempting to maintain families, jobs, and a life of some sort.

In the America that we all fought for a job is a necessity, providing us not only with a living, but with a sense of worth, a feeling of contributing to society. Many veterans chose, upon returning home, to continue their federal service and went to work for different agencies of the Federal government. Locally the "cannon factory" is one of the large Federal employers.

IN 1980 a Vietnam combat vet applied for a job at the "cannon factory" and, because of his service-connected (physical) disability, was hired. He knew that he had problems — he drank a bit too much and smoked pot, but

that was just to help calm his nerves. He felt for sure that this job was his big break. Now everything would be OK!

So much for first impressions. Within two years, as an act of defiance to the cannon factory's "uppity-ups" and the all-caring Federal government, the veteran resigned from his job before the inevitable axe fell. Before going to work at the "cannon factory" his "problem" had been somewhat manageable. But after only two years of orchestrated disconcert and provocation at the hands of these professional "drovers," the vet was a solidly-entrenched alcoholic and was so crippled by hatred of the system that a suicide attempt was inevitable. PTSD was working its ugly magic.

Why didn't the management at the "cannon factory" notice that this vet had a problem? Were they blind or unconcerned? If they did notice, how come their approach to the problem was simply to "turn up the heat?" Rather than attempting to help this man they planned to rid themselves of him by termination or resignation. What a tribute from the government that this man had fought, and nearly died, for.

This story, like many others as grim, is true. I know. It is my story.

SINCE BECOMING a locally noted advocate for Vietnam veterans I have become horrified at the number of veterans who come to me with their "cannon factory" horror stories, stories of mistreatment, arbitrary actions, and insensitivity. When a veteran comes to my office looking for a job and mentions or asks about the "cannon factory" my response is always the same: "Are you a masochist, suicidal, or just plain desperate?"

The "union" at the "cannon factory" will back a person who misses days of work for alcohol abuse or snorting Drano because it's legal to drink and snort Drano and be rehabilitated. But let some combat vet who has a snoot full of PTSD get busted with drugs "off-post," go through a PTSD management course, a substance abuse rehab, and have a good positive attitude toward the future — they won't represent him because it was illegal for him to take drugs. That he was suffering from emotional wounds inflicted on him in an illegal war he was invited to attend twenty years ago — that is not taken into consideration.

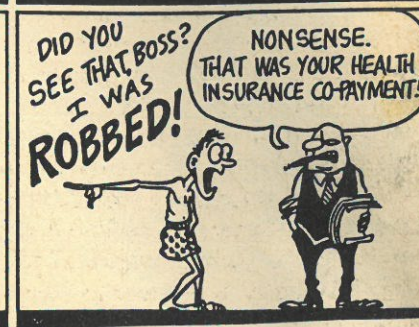
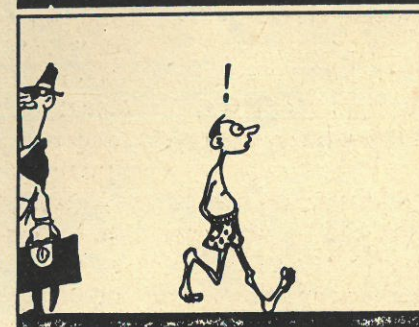
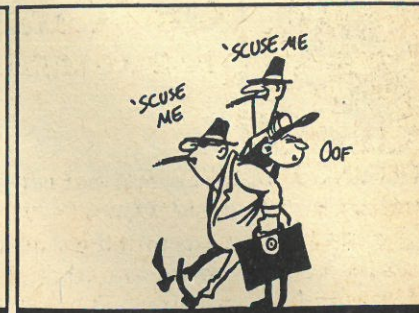
THEN THERE'S the case of the vet with years of faithful service to the "cannon factory" who also had a service-connected nervous disorder. After being told by

his doctor that, because of a physical problem, he could no longer do heavy work he applied for a light-duty job and was told there were none to be had. He was told to go home and use up his sick leave and vacation leave while waiting for them to act.

Under law the "cannon factory" is required to make reasonable accommodation to retrain such men for a suitable job. But, for this man, the next step seems to be "out the door." This is the way management trims the budget at the "cannon factory."

I could go on, and on. But I'm sure you get the point. I for one would like to see the powers that be, and those who decide daily on issues that affect people's lives, provide us with a "kinder, gentler, cannon factory," a "cannon factory" sensitive to the premise that its ultimate mission is to destroy only those standing at the muzzle end of its death machines.

One, two, three. That's what we're fighting for. Now.



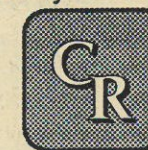
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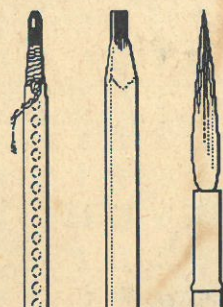
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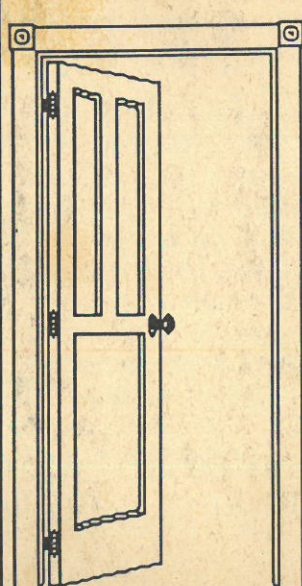
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CHINA: Democracy on the Horizon?

Vox Populi

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COVER PHOTO: The flag of china, draped in blood,
symbolizes the recent massacre of thousands of Chinese
students in their struggle for democracy.

This issue of HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD
is dedicated to the thousands of Chinese students who
gave their life in their quest for freedom and democracy.
May their struggle succeed.

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China in Transition: An Interview with Chinese Student Chen YanNan

by Barbara Grossman

Chen YanNan, a Chinese Doctoral student in the
economics department at SUNY, is an ardent opponent of
the hardline communist government now in control of the
Peoples Republic of China. Although, for a time a member
of one group of Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution
in China(1966 - 1976), Chen suffered greatly at the time. At
first repudiated because he was from an intellectual family,
he was later sent to the countryside while all the members of
his family were separated from each other. In this
conversation, Chen talks about the current crisis in China,
putting it in context with other struggles for power and
change in recent Chinese history.

CHEN: At the beginning of the Cultural Revolution, a lot
of intellectuals were singled out as targets of the struggle.
Unfortunately, because my father was a doctor and my
mother was also a medical
worker, my parents were
among the first to be
struggled against. I even lost
my right to participate in the
Cultural Revolution, because
they thought I was from a
reactionary family.

That might have been
good for me, because at the
beginning, the Red Guard,
which was composed mostly
of the children of high
ranking officials, struggled
against what was called the
four old evils-the old
traditions and culture and
customs. They tore down
temples and churches and
paraded famous intellectuals
in the street. High school students ordered teachers and
principals to kneel down on shattered glass in the sun. They
tortured them. A lot of intellectuals committed suicide at
that time.

That was the first battle waged by the Red Guards at the
order of Chairman Mao Zedong. Then, after several months,
we found what was really in Chairman Mao's mind. He
didn't really want to attack those intellectuals. They weren't
his real target. His real target was President Liu Shao Qi, his
party opponent. After several months, the Red Guards were
called to attack the party and government leaders at all
levels of the government, down to the grass roots level.

At the end of 1966, when the party officials who were in
opposition to Mao's leadership learned they were the prime
targets, they loosened their control over who could join the

Red Guards. I was allowed to join, but a different faction.
One of the purposes of my faction was to reinstate the
teachers and principals in the high schools. We didn't
want them to suffer.

*I didn't realize there were different Red Guard factions. We
never heard about that here in the U.S.*

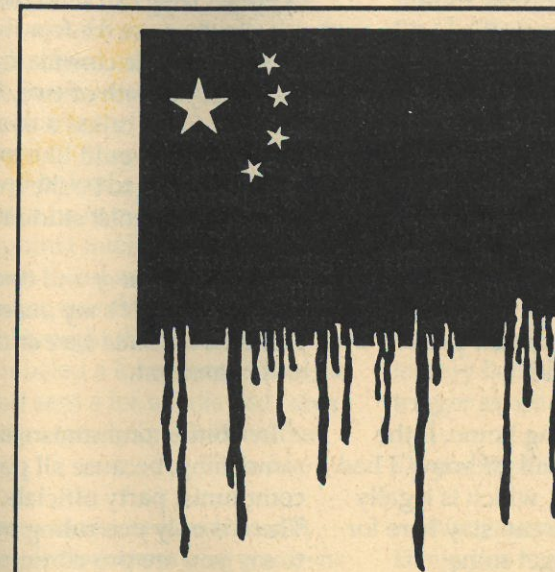
Toward the end of 1967, the Red Guard split, and the
two factions fought each other. I fought and I lost a lot of
my friends. I was the first to get a pistol-from a navy
camp. We commandeered jeeps, trucks, even buses. I had
my first driving lesson at that time. I don't regret what
we did. We did it to reinstate those innocent people who
suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

*Was the situation during the
Cultural Revolution analogous to
what's happening in China now,
when it appears that different army
units were at least considering
fighting each other?*

No, I don't think there is any
similarity between the two
movements. In 1966, the
Cultural Revolution was
instigated by Mao Zedong to
get rid of his party or
government opponents, because
he felt his position was
threatened by Liu Shao Qi and
his clique. He didn't see a
better way to get rid of this
group than by calling on the
whole nation and all the people
to throw their support to him.

He made use of his high prestige and he succeeded. The
people didn't realize until 1968 when we were driven to
the countryside to work like farmers. It was actually a
struggle for personal power, but it was possible to arouse
the people because they were sick of the rampant
bureaucracy. They thought it was a chance for them to
voice their discontent. In that sense, the people thought
they could accomplish their purposes, too. If they were
called on (by Mao) to topple the local governments, they
were more than willing to do so. Mao took advantage of
the people's discontent with the bureaucrats.

Had President Liu been appointed by the Communist Party? I



don't entirely understand the power structure in China. Authority seems to be personality oriented rather than invested in a particular office.

Mao had been the Chairman of the party, and also the president of the People's Republic of China, for about 20 years. But his economic policies were a fiasco. During the 1960s, his misplaced agricultural and industrial policies brought the nation to the brink of economic crisis. Millions of people died of hunger. He (Mao) thought he would not be able to retain his position, so he wanted to make a scapegoat of somebody, so he told the Politburo he would like to step down, didn't want to be president, but would retain his party leadership to do more theoretical research. He suggested that Liu could perhaps handle the day-to-day business better than he could.

Liu did a pretty good job, from 1960 to 1964, what we call the period of restoration. But Mao got very suspicious. He thought Liu's clique was too strong then. Maybe his (Mao's) supreme position would be threatened. He was paranoid. That's why he started the Cultural Revolution in 1966.

Constitutionally speaking, the president is number one, but historically, the party chairman has been the most powerful. Ironically, after the Cultural Revolution, with Deng Xiaoping, the party chairman was no longer the most powerful. The most powerful was the chairman of the Military Commission, Deng Xiaoping. Hu Yaobang, who was deposed two years ago, and Zhou Ziyang who obviously stepped down this time, were party chairmen, but were forced to step down. It shows that the most powerful guy is Deng Xiaoping himself, who attained only one position: Chairman of the Military Commission.

Are you planning to go back to China after you finish your education, or will you stay in the United States?

At this point, nobody is thinking of going home. If the dark ages last long, I don't think anyone will go home. I had planned to go back after practical training, which is legally granted to people on J1 visas. Legally, you can stay here for a year or two after getting your degree to get some experience.

We all planned to go back before the terrible incident in Tiananmen Square. Right now, that prospect is very bleak. Hopefully, we can go back eventually, after the anti-people power is toppled.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has extended everyone's visa, haven't they?

The latest news I heard is that the immigration office will extend visas for one year, on application. It's not automatic, and there are several conditions: if you don't have a third country to go to, if you don't commit a felony, if you came here before that terrible incident (in Beijing) and if you show unwillingness to go back to China. The last one is a little

unclear. It probably means circumstantial evidence for fear of persecution.

What will happen to the families of the students who don't go back to China because of what happened in Tiananmen Square. Will they be persecuted?

It depends. If we don't go back, I don't think the government will be cruel enough to punish us by persecuting our families. That's going too far. But people think that if they are too outspoken, there might be reprisals against their relatives. Up until now, people were only worried about themselves. They think that after the dust settles, when the government thinks it has perfect control over the domestic situation, they might send messages to the embassy and consulates to tighten control over us, too. I think that will happen in a month or two.

How can the Chinese government tighten control over you while you're here?

They can refuse to extend your passport when it expires. They can send down officials as they did before, constantly, to strike fear into some of the people here. People from the consulate came very regularly in the past—every month or two. They talk to some people. They call you. I was called a couple of months ago. They told me that they would like to have a dialogue with me because I used to be the most hardline anti-government or anti-communist student in the area.

Anti-government or anti-communist? They aren't necessarily the same thing. It's my understanding that the student protesters in China were anti-government, but not anti-communist.

In China, communism and the government are the same thing, because all government officials are communist party officials. They control everything. There is only one ruling party. I think it is only a strategy to say you are pro-communist and anti-government. In China, if you shout the slogan: "Down with communism," that's like a felony, but if you are against corruption, it's morally correct and you get a lot of sympathy from a lot of people. Not many people dare to go to such lengths as saying "Down with communism." To my satisfaction and pleasure, Chinese students here throughout the U.S. knew it was really time to fight against communism, so now you can hear: "Down with communism." The movement has already passed a sensitive point, and I don't think there is any return once you pass that point.

I know that historically China has had great respect for intellectuals and education, but now I read that college professors make less money than taxi drivers and waitresses. Is

the current situation a holdover from Mao and his fear of intellectuals and too much education?

Traditionally, Chinese people had a high respect for intellectuals and education. Even those Chinese parents who are farmers and who are not well educated try their best to send their sons and daughters to good schools to receive good educations in the hope that one day they could become officials. Traditionally, we have a saying that everything else is not important. Only studying is the all important thing. It's a couplet. Studying hard and becoming an official in the government is the most decent way for young people. A lot of children were brought up with that thought.

Didn't China have the first civil service?

Yes, but not a civil service as it's known in the western world. To be a civil servant, one had to pass an examination of Chinese culture, literature and Confucius which had nothing to do with how to administer the country. After the communist party came to power in 1949, the communist regime repeatedly persecuted intellectuals in wave after wave of campaigns against knowledge and education. Some think it's because Mao himself didn't receive a higher education. He was only a graduate of a normal school, which in China is equivalent to a high school education. He tried to get into Beijing University, the most prestigious University in China, but never succeeded in doing so. The best he could do was to be hired as a library assistant there. People think that deep in his heart, Mao harbored hatred and resentment against the intellectuals, so when he came to power, he launched a lot of campaigns against intellectuals, batches of whom were persecuted and sent to jail and labor camps.

The most notorious movement was the anti-rightist movement in 1957, when Mao thought the intellectuals were too dangerous to his rule. He labeled a lot of intellectuals as rightists. He demoted them and sent a lot to jails and labor camps. Deng Xiaoping was very actively involved in that campaign, too.

Since news of the Tiananmen Square massacre is restricted in China, how are you letting the people there know what you know about the situation. Are you still faxing information to China?

We've decided now that faxing isn't good enough. When we were faxing, we thought that immediacy was the most important thing. Now immediacy is not as urgent as it was before, so we are starting a letter writing campaign, to send letters to our relatives and friends throughout China to tell them what really happened in Tiananmen Square. People just don't know what's going on.

Is it only the students and intellectuals now who are opposing the government, or are other segments of the Chinese people behind them?

In China, the greater part of the population is farmers.

Usually, they are not very active politically. One thing that accounts for the current failure of this movement is that we haven't really spread the ideas throughout the country. If the farmers, too, want democracy, they can do one thing which is very effective: write letters to their sons and daughters in the army. The soldiers come mostly from the countryside. If the farmers also know that their interests are bound up with democracy, they might send letters to their sons and daughters in the army. Had that been the case, I don't think the army troops could have been so effective in shooting in Tiananmen Square. Hopefully, when this movement is revived, the consciousness of the farmers will come into play.

Do you think things are going to be quiet for awhile?

Right now, it seems to me that the hardline leaders in the Communist Part, led by Deng Xiaoping have reemerged triumphantly, but I don't think this regime can last long. It has already lost all the people's confidence.

Just the urban people, though. What percentage of the population is urban?

Ten to 20 percent.

If the guns are against you, and you can't vote, how can you manifest your lack of confidence?

The people can do at least one thing. They can fail to do their work in a very active way. They can become idlers, can slow down, do sabotage. These things are not easily found, so I predict that the economy is going to be in very bad shape in a year or two, which could, in turn, trigger another anti-government movement.

Do you think it will take a year or two?

Well, these dark ages could last three to five years. If Deng dies in a couple of years, there may be another upsurge then.

He's supposed to be pretty sick, isn't he?

He's supposed to have prostate cancer, and he's very old—84 or 85.

Is it true that there are Chinese government spies on college campuses in the U.S.?

A lot of people here were very quiet, because they were afraid they might be reported by Communist spies. I have no very hard evidence of that, but we do have students here who are what we call professional students. They might study in some degree program, but

at the same time, they report to the embassy or consulate on their fellow students.

What do you think of American reaction-official and non-official to the recent events in China?

I think that Americans are very sympathetic to our struggle for democracy and freedom. I am very thankful for their moral and financial support, but I don't think President Bush's reaction is strong enough.

As a Chinese citizen, I'm in a great dilemma. If the Bush administration administers economic sanctions against China, it might not affect the lives of high ranking officials very much. The people are those who suffer the most. So, in that sense, I don't think it's good to exercise economic sanctions. But if you don't do that, the Chinese government may have the wrong idea that the international community doesn't care about what happened. In that sense, I'd like to see severe economic sanctions against China. I'm torn by that kind of dilemma.

I'm afraid that Bush's special relationship with China might prevent him from doing anything very effective. He knew some of these (government) people. That kind of personal friendship might prevent him from doing something proper. A lot of Chinese students here think that President Bush is not a man of principle. He's not like his mentor, Ronald Reagan. If Reagan were here, he could do something better than Bush has done.

What do you think will happen to Zhao Ziyang?

Obviously, he has already been stripped of all his power. The struggle for political power is barbaric. If you look at the history of the Chinese Communist Party, it might lead to a very bloody persecution, even secret executions. It has happened before.

Is it possible that Zhao could reemerge in a couple of years?

I think that his life is in jeopardy. When Mao wanted to get rid of Liu Shao Qi, he just sent him to a prison very far away from Beijing in the western part of China. There he was known only by a number, without a name, without any identity at all. Not a single jailer knew his name. Nobody knew who he was. It could be very cruel, very ruthless. I'm very worried about his life now. I don't know whether he's alive or not. Nobody can tell.

Is there anyone in China now who you'd like to see leading the government?

I don't think so. Even if in our anger we shout the slogan: "Down with the communist party." I know there's no political party in China that can replace the communist party, so I did hope that Zhao Xiaoping could reemerge as a leader to lead China into a more moderate period. But unfortunately, he's gone.

A lot of my colleagues, a lot of my fellow students don't agree with me. They thought all the communist leaders were our enemies. I don't agree with them. I see that there is no independent political power in China now that can replace communism, so that even if, in my anger, I shout: "Down with communism!" I do know that if Zhao could reemerge, I would throw all my support to him.

Wasn't Deng Xiaoping originally considered a moderate, a reformist?

Ironically, I worshipped him 10 years ago. In 1977, I was a high school teacher. I was sent down to the countryside in 1968, and spent almost 10 years there. I worked as a farmer for four years, taught the three "R"s in elementary school, and then was promoted to a high school teacher.

In 1977, after Mao's widow and her gang were driven out of the power clique, Deng Xiaoping reemerged and there was the first national examination for higher education, for (entrance into) colleges and universities. I took the examination and was admitted to Ximen University.

I thought I should be very grateful to Deng Xiaoping, because I owed a lot to him (for that opportunity). At the time, there was no official picture of him in any of the bookstores, so I asked someone who was very good at drawing pictures to draw one of Deng Xiaoping for me. I posted it on the wall; I really worshipped him.

When I came to the United States about two years ago, when Hu Yaobang, also his protege, was demoted as party general secretary, I was greatly disappointed. We were all very angry. That was the first time Chinese students took to the streets-something like a rebellion, but not on the scale of the current one. We thought there might be hope for Chinese democracy, but unfortunately, Hu Yaobang was demoted, dismissed from his post as party general secretary.

I was the one here in Albany to start an open letter campaign. We canvassed for signatures. Only five other students who joined us used their genuine names. Eleven others wanted to show their support, but used false names. I coordinated the people on other campuses. It was at that time that I came to realize that Deng Xiaoping wanted economic reform in China, but didn't want any political reform.

We have had several open letter campaigns over the last two or three years, and each time, I was the organizer on this campus. That's why when the embassy people came here, they want to have a dialogue with me. They threatened me and said, "Mr. Chen, you're pretty famous now. Your name appears in a lot of magazines and newspapers. Do you consider your future in a serious way?"

I think the future of China is more important than my own future. If I don't speak out, nobody at the

university (SUNY) will speak out. It's my unshirkable duty to speak out on behalf of all the students here.

What will happen to the people who did speak out if they go back to China now?

Right now, if they go back, they'll certainly be arrested. A lot of people here are silent, but even those who are not actively involved in this campaign are not going back right now. It's hard for the Chinese government to tell one who is not involved from one who is involved. They might think everyone here in the United States is involved.

Do you think the students on Tiananmen Square really thought they could change the government?

I don't think when they were gathered in Tiananmen Square they could have expected the ferocity of this fascist government. Nobody expected that. We knew that there might be some harsh measures taken, but we thought at most they might use tear gas or night sticks.

The students who were in Tiananmen Square were young- around 20. Do you think older students, like you who have been through the Cultural Revolution would have had different expectations?

I think those of different ages might have had the same expectations, because the young students at Tiananmen Square were supported by a lot of senior intellectuals, and I don't think any of them thought that the government would go to such lengths of fascist brutality. I didn't expect that. No one expected that thousands of lives would be lost. No one.

What will the government's next move be? Will they continue to persecute the students?

Right now there's a massive arrest going on in Beijing and Shanghai. I was told that a lot of students have gone into hiding. They might go to relatives. They might go to the countryside. But it's not easy. It's not like the United States, you've got to have your residence certificate. If you don't have that, it's very dangerous. It's not easy to go into hiding.

It's not easy to disappear. Six hundred people have already been arrested in Beijing alone.

What will happen to them?

Some of them might be secretly executed. Nobody knows what has become of them. They could be shot. The Communist Party does things like that.

A lot of students here are Communist Party members-at least one third. On other college campuses, many Chinese students have declared their intention to have nothing to do with the Communist Party. They say: "I withdraw. I don't recognize this fascist party." That's one thing we can do now.

The other thing is that right now there are two telephone numbers in Beijing for people to tell the authorities that someone suspicious has appeared in their neighborhood. These two telephone numbers were shown on TV, and we are encouraging Chinese students in this area to call those numbers repeatedly.

The line is always busy, but someone once got through and said: "Yes, we found a counter-revolutionary in our area named Li." And when the operator there asked: "Who is that Li?" he said, "Li Peng!"

I'm sure they don't see the humor in that.

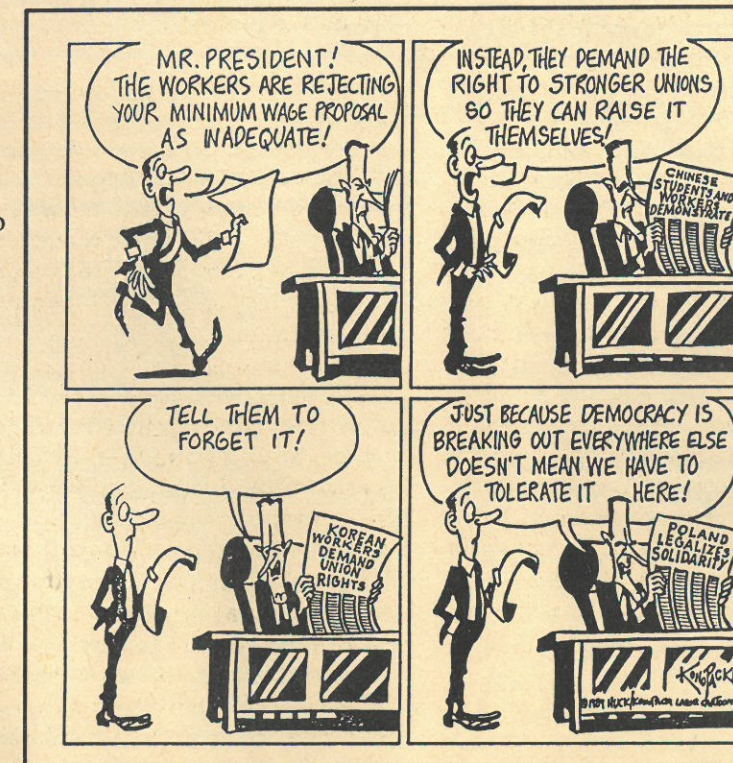
Someone else told the operator: "We found 40,000 hooligans in our neighborhood." When the operator asked who they were, the answer was: "The 40,000 Chinese students studying in the United States. We are deadly against communism."

Barbara Grossman is a frequent writer for HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

What Are People Saying About HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD?

"Intriguing"
Peter Iselin, Publisher, Metroland Magazine

"Reformist rather than revolutionary, and off to a good start"
FACTSHEET FIVE, review





The Greek Revolution (Architecturally) in Troy

by John Wolcott

Classical architectural forms such as Roman, Greek, and Tuscan were heavily employed in a variety of styles in Europe and its colonies since the Renaissance. In the early nineteenth century, some buildings began to appear that were patterned exclusively after ancient Greek temples. Known as the "Greek Revival" style, it remained but one among others until the onset of the Greek Revolution in 1821.

Greek Revival architecture took off as a major movement following upon the Greek revolution. This was especially prevalent in the United States where many citizens sympathized with the Greek struggle.

Imbued with Jeffersonian democracy and some, influenced by Adrian Vanderkemp, they made an easy identification with ancient Athenian principles of democracy. Our government built warships for Greece, and some American officers served in the Greek armed forces. Greek aid committees appeared all over the country. More Greek style architecture was designed, presented by proponents as both as suitable for a democracy, and for simplicity, purity, and grandeur of line and composition.

Terms such as pediment, architrave, and hexastyle became as commonplace as saddle notch, chinking, and half dovetail. This reflected an ever increasing interest in classical Greece as American aid to modern Greece intensified. On October 20, 1821, an appeal for aid to Greece, in its struggle against the Turkish Empire, appeared in Troy's *Northern Budget* newspaper. It was

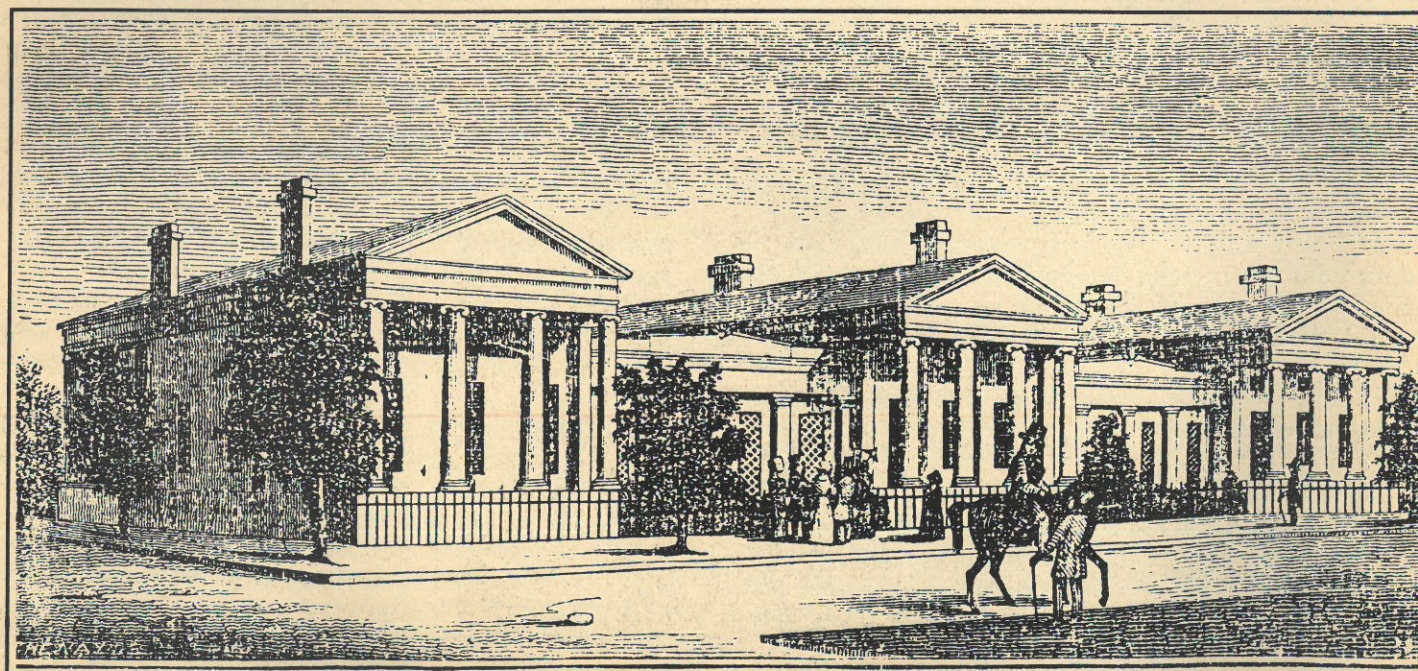
replete with references to Ancient Greece and American democratic principles and revolutionary example. It read, in part:

"Humanity is expecting it's revival from the New-World. But however your example may suffice to others, we in our present straits need also your aid..... It is among you, that liberty, has found its abode, and she is worshiped by you as by our fathers. In imitating you, we imitate our own ancestors, and we shall show ourselves worthy of them in proportions as we resemble you. The country of Penn, of Franklin and of Washington, cannot refuse their aid to the descendants of Phocion, Thrasylus, Aratus, and Philopamen. You have already evinced confidence in them by sending your children to their schools. You know the kindness and attention of which they have been the objects. What will not be their friendship to you, when by your aid they shall have burst their fetters."

It was signed by Commander in Chief, General Peter Marromichales. In the same issue of the *Budget*, the editors published a long poem in support of the Greek Revolution by one "Floria" with even more classical references. Here are a few lines that refer to Troy of old:

*"Ida, yet upon they hill,
A glory shines of ages fled,
And fame her light is pouring still."*

The Greek Committee of Troy was headed by Townsend McCoun. It had sub-committees in each ward of the city. The Rensselaer County Government gave over its court house for the first meeting of the "General Greek Committee of Troy," in 1826. At this meeting Daniel



Gardner, City Recorder made an impassioned and spirited speech on behalf of Greek aid, mirroring the statement of General Marromichales to some degree. At the same time, the *Budget*, ever supportive, added an editorial appeal for Greek aid, asking that: "The poor contribute their mite the rich cast in their abundance." There was even a gala "Greek Ball" held in Troy. The Troy Committee then raised enough money to charter a ship which they filled with bundles of clothes, barrels of flour, and many other provisions. This may not have exceeded what many other cities did around the country at the same time, but the Troy Committee did go a step further. They sent a petition to the New York State Legislature for a bill for State aid to Greece.

One might suppose that the name of Troy gave at least a little added incentive to Greek architecture and aid alike. It was the first place in America to draw its name from classical Greek literature. The theme was strengthened when two ordinary hills in Troy were elevated to the status of mountains with names borrowed from Greece (Mt. Ida and Mt. Olympus).

At any rate there is a fair amount of Greek Revival architecture to be seen in Troy today escaping the wrecking ball of the urban renewal period of the 1960's and 1970's. Of temple facade Greek buildings in Troy, the second County Court House may have been the first. It was planned in 1826, but not completed until 1831 (it was razed in 1895 to make way for the present County court house). It is said to have been designed by the famous architect Ithiel Townsend and was patterned after a particular temple - the Doric Theseum in Athens. This was soon followed by two Greek Temple style buildings that were actually designed for use as temples - the Second Street Presbyterian Church of which only the core remains now hidden among the County Court House Annex, and the second First Presbyterian Church, also Doric in style.

All three were clustered around Congress Park (now Sage Park) which gave this central square a more Grecian air than most places in America.

The First Presbyterian is the only one that remains of this group and it was the best designed of the three or of any of this type in Troy. Its architect was the nationally renown James Dakin. The building compares well with any Greek Revival Temple design building in the country.

There were quite a few homes in Troy, designed with full temple facades, even though many here, as elsewhere, were loose interpretations of Greek temples. The idea was to give a general impression and an inspirational and romantic historic identification. In addition, there were other buildings designed with a bare suggestion of a temple portico through the use of only pilasters ranged across the front, rather than free standing columns.

One of the most interesting and attractively sited groups of Temple facade homes in Troy used to be on the south side of upper Ferry Street. These houses were set against the slope of Mount Ida, somewhat above the street with high stone steps leading to them. During the 1960's Troy was deprived of the Ferry Street examples when they were destroyed for an ill-fated highway project.

In addition to the temple facade homes and mansions to be seen all around Troy, individually, two clusters of them remain. They are such as to arrest one's attention when traveling through South Troy near the Washington Park neighborhood. Located at 354, 356, and 358 Third Street in South Troy, are three temple faces in a row, albeit that the middle one is of the pilaster type. This latter one seems to have been the first of the three to be

built when a coppersmith named Joseph Taylor bought the lot in 1838 from Sylvester Norton and his partners. The deed required that a house be built within a year or the property would revert to the grantors. Norton and his associates, who owned the large Stephen Schuyler Farm in South Troy, used this and other deed covenants, as their method of directing and accelerating urban development there.

At 160, 164, 168, and 170 Second Street, near Washington Park, are houses with Ionic temple porticoes. The columns at 170 were removed at some time in the past and metal rods or pipes now support the entablature and pediment.

The houses at 160, 164 and 168 were built in 1837. These houses were built 'by' the owner instead of 'for'



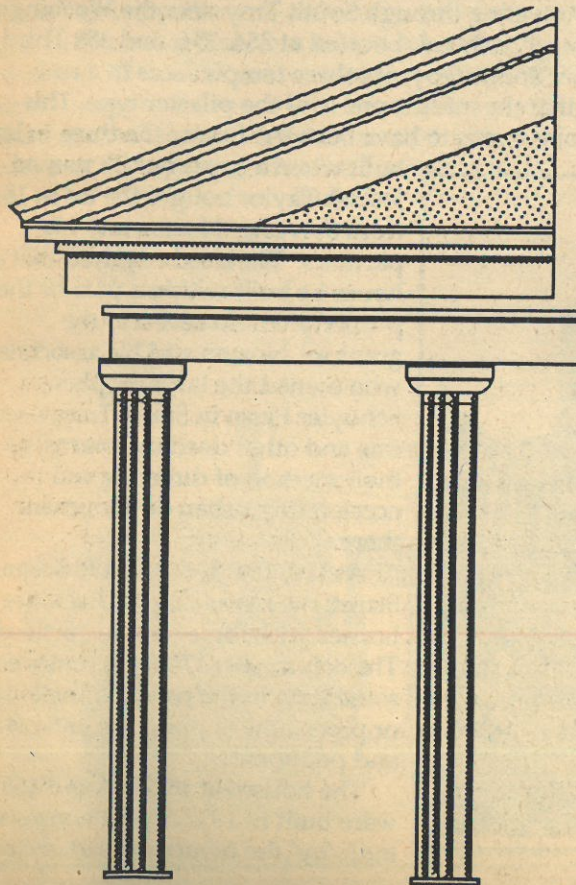
"Cottage Row" Today. Photo by D.Rittner

the owner. Known as "Cottage Row," it was designed originally as a row of three small houses with Ionic porticoes in tetrastyle. The three were connected in front by intervening garden screens, in temple facade design in a manner that presented a well proportioned and attractive composition, and joined each house. It appears that these houses were not as high as they are now and formerly had better proportions suggesting they were modified in later years.

If properly restored, Cottage Row would again be an ornament to the city. Norton Sage was both the designer and builder of this row. He lived in the middle house, and sold the other two. Norton Sage is modestly listed in the city directories of the day as a carpenter. Norton Sage was one of those builders who also had a basic knowledge of architectural design and went through every step of design and construction without a professional architect.

His portrait at the Rensselaer County Historical Society shows an architectural elevation of a Doric Temple in his hand.

He was known for building in the Greek Revival Style and probably built a number of other Troy buildings in this style. That Sage had a reputation as a designer-builder is implied both by his portrait and by an article in the July 1843 issue of *The Cultivator*. This article is full of praise for the design of Cottage Row and concludes with, "This pretty spot was designed, built, and is now owned by that enterprising citizen,



Norton Sage."

Around the corner from this last architectural group is an entire block consisting of one massive pilastered row. It has a false pediment and slight projection in the center to suggest a Greek temple. This row is on Washington Place facing Washington Park. It is somewhat run down, and altered, and could use restoration. Washington Place was built in 1840 as a joint endeavor of the Mayor Jonas Heart, Judge John Cushman, and a group of Troy Businessmen including the enterprising Sylvester Norton. The row was built in conjunction with the establishment of Washington Park, one of the few remaining private parks in the country.

This article is largely about Greek Temple designs but it should be noted that there are many fine row town houses in Troy built in the Greek Revival style. The decorative details of some of these row houses are worth seeing. There are interesting rows on Broadway at Fifth, and on Third Street south of Congress. At the General Carr house at 57 Second Street is a unique Greek Style doorway.

As late as the twentieth century, the Federal government in 1936 added an interesting note to Troy's Greek Revival architecture and its associated themes. In that year, the present Troy Post Office was built. Its design, highly stylized and streamlined, at least evokes the idea of a Greek Temple. The emulation of this particular architectural style from Troy's past was apparently quite deliberate. Inside are murals depicting what are more indigenous Hudson Valley subjects.

There are many surviving examples of the Greek Revival period in Troy for visitors to see. Below are a few addresses and, where known, building dates and original owners.

John Wolcott is a well known historian in the Capital District.

SOME GREEK REVIVAL HOMES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN TROY •

183 Third St. built in 1844 for Charels Lindley
356 Third St. built in 1838 for Joseph C Taylor, Coppersmith
358 Third St. 1844. Daniel Hudson, Tannery an currier
274 8th St. built in 1840 for Luther McCoy, merchant
549 6th Ave., Lansingburg. 1840. John B. Lull
713 Third Ave. 1858. For John Moss
819 Third Ave. 1845 John Morey (Lansingburg)
164 Second St. 1837. Norton Sage builder and architect
168 Second St. 1844. George W. Flicke forwarding merchant

Washington Place Block, April 1840

#3 Griffith P Griffith, merchant
#2 Jonas C Heartt, Mayor
#9 Albert Heartt, merchant
#1 Joel Mallary, merchant
#6, 7, 10 John Cushman, circuit judge
#8 Philip Heartt, merchant
#4, 5 Sylvester Norton, merchant, speculator, developer

Glenwood on Eddy's Lane (now Troy Housing Authority offices).
1842 for Titus Eddy

First Presbyterian Church, 1836
First Baptist Church, 1846

*Compiled by Don Rittner



Paul Plante -Revisited

by Richard Crist

Fired over the Memorial Day weekend by Rensselaer County Executive, John Buono, former county environmental health director Paul Plante said that he will mount an appeal against the county which may include charges of libel and perjury, along with seeking compensatory damages for harm done to Plante's personal reputation.

Plante's firing came in the midst of another development crucial to the county's environmental future - a recent ruling by the county Board of Health, which acts as an advisory body to the county Health Department and is responsible for formulating many of the policies and procedures of that department.

The board decided to relax the requirements on fill system installation on subdivisions somewhat, along with readopting the 1978 guide to septic system installing "Rural Sewage Disposal." Environmentalists, including Plante, saw the board's move as a bow to developers and builders angry over Plante's practices as director of the department in charge of septic system approvals. Plante said that the board's decision put the county back into the dark ages with regards to the sanitary code. "They've gone right back to 1977," Plante said, referring to what he called a "time of weakness" in the department.

Developer Steven Anderson of East Greenbush, who has initiated several suits against the county for its refusal of one of his projects disagreed. "They're very reasonable and help get things back on track," Anderson said.

Board of Health President Paul Burke said he hoped that the move by the board at their mid-May meeting would go a long way in clearing up any difficulties between developers and the county health department. "It's certainly a clarification," Burke said. "There has been some controversy as to what the policies are, and this should provide the clarification."

Officials in the state health department have not been as enthusiastic over the new regulations. In a May 31 letter to Burke, William Stasiuk, director for the Center for Environmental Health stated that his department had "serious concerns" over the board's recent adoption of the 1978 guide commonly referred to as "The red book" by developers and builders confused by the number of manuals in circulation in the department a year ago, with different colored covers and slightly different texts regarding septic system installation.

Stasiuk warned the board that the resolution changing regulations had not complied with the provision of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Until those requirements were met, Stasiuk said, "The article is legally ineffective and unacceptable for filing."

Stasiuk recommended that the board repeal its resolution, but Burke said that the board had no plans to do so. Burke noted that the board was in the midst of formulating a new sanitary code he said will be more cohesive.

Plante's plans for an appeal ensure that these will not be a quick end to the controversy surrounding his former duties as environmental health director. Before formally filing an appeal in court, Plante wrote to the state Health Commissioner David Axlerod asking that he over turn the decision rendered by hearing officer Philip Lance at the conclusion of Plante's county disciplinary hearings. Lance made the recommendation to Buono that Plante be fired from his duties.

Plante says that an appeal will focus on his allegations of land fraud, possible perjury by county officials during their testimony at the hearings and Lance's relationship with Buono. Lance is a regular contributor to the Republican party, Buono's party, and Buono's campaign efforts in 1985 during his bid for the county executive seat. Buono is running for reelection this year.

Buono doesn't expect Plante to substantiate his claims of land fraud and misuse, and took offense that Plante, almost nine months after made the claim of fraud last October, still has not provided documentation.

"You're got to start pinning him on this," Buono said in reference to Plante's charges. "He still hasn't proven any of this."

Plante said that he had attempted to meet with Buono to present him with evidences of fraud, but that Buono had refused. "Absolutely not," Buono emphatically replied, in response to Plante's claim.

Plante said that he had been dealing with the county district attorney's office on the land fraud charges. An assistant district attorney, Richard McNally said that Plante had spoken with him several times regarding the Algonquin Estates subdivision in Poestenkill, which the district attorney's office was charged with investigating by the state health department on the possibility that illegal sale of some lots occurred. McNally said that Plante had spoken to him on the fraud charge, but had not provided any concrete evidence.

"The whole saga is an interesting one," McNally said, "and can be interpreted in different ways. I don't know where the bottom line is."

Richard Crist is a free lance writer from Rensselaer County.



Bread or Circus?

by Monica G. Finch

There can be no argument from any quarter that this country has developed a serious moral and ethical void. Right and wrong have become indistinct and open to subjective interpretation: everything now depends on the right "spin."

The dichotomy of our value system's deterioration has recently been personified by the post-presidential careers of two recent commander-and-chiefs: Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.

Last week President Reagan was knighted by England's Queen Elizabeth, continuing the larger-than-life Hollywood role-playing typical of his entire presidency. It was also announced that Reagan would earn a cool 2-3 million acting as pitchman for Japanese industries, reprising his role as spokesman and champion of big business as he once did for the General Electric Company. This time, he's taken his show on the road. After the public outcry over the remuneration he would receive for boosting a foreign competitor's commerce while ours here at home lags behind, it was quickly amended with some fancy PR footwork: "Most" of the money would go towards his presidential library and Nancy's drug treatment center.

While all this regal pomp and circumstance was headline grabbing, President Carter and his former first lady were busy heading their organization, Habitats for Humanity. They travel around the country, tying on nail aprons, working with inner city grass-roots activists and community leaders rehabilitating derelict houses. The houses are then sold for cost to low-income families in an effort to stem the tide of homelessness (Somehow, it is difficult to envision Nancy Reagan wearing a nail apron).

The Carters live a peripatetic lifestyle, sleeping and eating in communal dormitories, working side by side with local volunteers and skilled professionals who donate their time, materials, and know-how to the housing reclamation projects.

These two ex-presidential couples dramatically exemplify the moral conflict and divisive value systems that are eroding our society and polarizing different segments of our populace. One is continuing their surreal elitist, "let-them-eat-cake" lifestyle of the rich and vacuous while the other is dealing hands-on with real problems which afflict a growing number of Americans daily.

Creeping apathy and oblivious attitudes have exacerbated the numbers of homeless, the hungry, and the plight of the working poor who are always on the edge. We have become smug, steeped in self-interest, fixated in a relentless pursuit of material goods and

comfort while the real issues are hidden, glossed-over by tinselled media hype and ephemeral glitz.

So when we despair over the paucity of the values held by our young people, why are we shocked? Think about what they've been witnessing for role models these past years and will continue to see - rich mediocre men running the government and raiding Wall Street; overpaid sports stars and celebrities and underpaid teachers, nurses, and medical researchers; the shallow glamor, the empty, canned rhetoric of politicians; the avaricious televangelicals who do it all in the name of God - how can anyone make sense of the mixed message sideshow. Who are our heroes? Who should we look up to who has integrity and consistency? Look what we've provided for our young people: everything is image with no substance.

No, fixing up run-down houses isn't very glamorous, nor is working in a soup kitchen, or in a homeless shelter, or in an AIDS hospice. These are all quiet, out-of-the-limelight acts of decency and courage. But they are not media events unless a politician happens to be just passing through on a campaign swing. Rubbing elbows with the Queen of England is infinitely more exciting, but in no way could it be more meaningful in the face of so much suffering and anguish.

During the Depression people had NOTHING, consequently, there was very little to fight over or compete for. But people had each other. Their very survival depended on cooperation, sharing what little there was, and a willingness to lend a hand, even to a stranger. There was a camaraderie during those bleak years which we'll never know. People today don't have these traits and skills because they think they don't need them. We have become materially flush but morally impoverished.

The terrible irony is, we don't need those survival skills because no one is a throw-away person and we cannot allow that attitude to trickle down from the highest leadership. Even though a president may dismiss the homeless problem, saying that those people have "chosen" to live, and sometimes die, on the streets, we cannot allow such callous, benighted vision to thwart our instinctive decency and compassion.

As time passes and the gap between the rich and poor widens, there will have to be a renaissance for action by people of good will and conscience. These are the people who will have to take leadership roles. We need more carpenters, not poseur knight errants in quest of filling deep pockets.

Monica Finch is a free lance writer from Schenectady.



Ward Stone has the Last Word

by Barbara Grossman

Weeks have passed since New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Thomas Jorling rescinded the transfer of controversial Ward Stone's Wildlife Pathology Unit to DEC's investigative division and committed \$230,000 of the agency's budget to replace a \$225,000 legislative appropriation vetoed by Governor Cuomo at Jorling's request. Stone has his money and his name is no longer in the headlines. But what really happened and why? Are things really as they should be now? Instead of summarizing other newspapers' stories, we went directly to Stone himself to get our answers.

I have a fact sheet here about you that summarizes your education and career and makes some amazing statements, such as that you work 70-to 80 hours a week, have given more than 1,000 talks to civic groups and have never taken a vacation. Is all this true?

Let me see. Well, they got some of it a little mixed up. I am the only wildlife pathologist at DEC. I do have an MS in zoology from Syracuse University. I'm a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and I guess I have won a few awards for my work, including an award from the eastern chapter of the Nature Conservancy and a friendship ring and beadwork from the Mohawk Nation. I guess I may have given 1,000 talks in the last 20 years. I don't know about working 70-80 hours every week, though, and I have taken vacation time, although I've lost a lot of hours of vacation time by accumulating more than the maximum amount. I haven't gone away on vacation, but I have used vacation time to catch up on my work, to go into the office to write letters and do some things I want to do there.

I can never really get away from my work. When I go

fishing, I see pollution. I'm on the receiving end of a lot of death and destruction.

It wasn't in 1969 that I began warning of mirex (pesticide) contamination of Lake Ontario. The mirex was in 1976. I started warning about PCBs in 1969 or early 1970s. I've been looking at PCBs for 20 years now. I found PCBs at Akwasasne (native American land in northern New York State), PCBs from the Reynolds Aluminum plant in the St. Lawrence River that should have been recognized by DEC in the early '80s, but it wasn't until 1987 or '88 that what I said was accepted (by DEC).

Why is it that it took so long, and why did a wildlife pathologist have to be the one to discover this type of pollution? Is it difficult to discover?

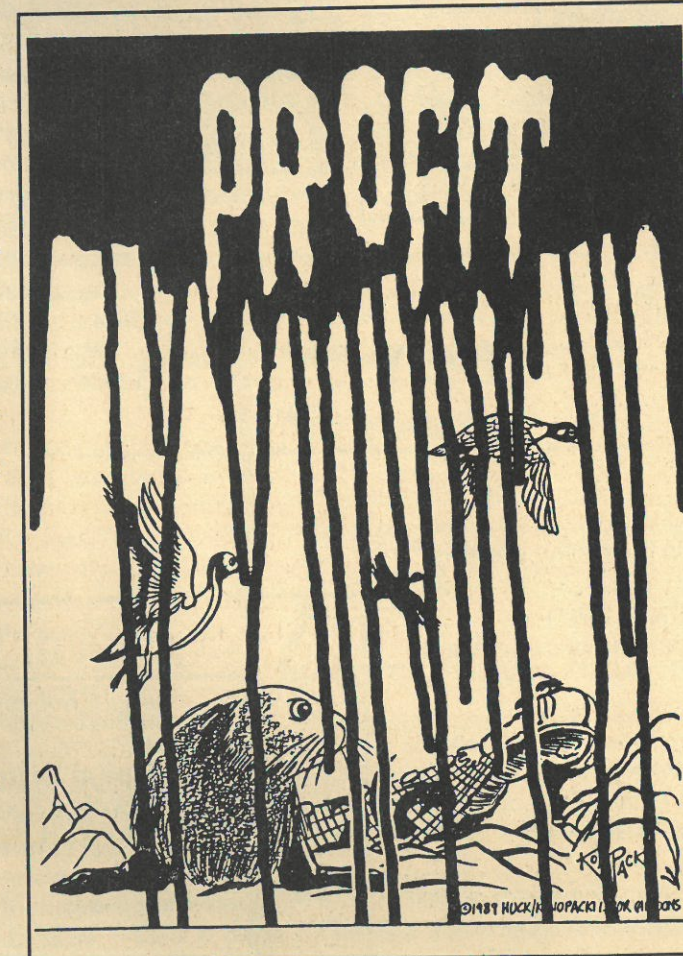
It's child's play to identify. You can even recognize PCBs by their smell, if you know what they smell like.

Then why didn't someone at DEC identify it, or accept your identification before?

It's because of the structure of the bureaucracy. With a team approach, no one feels responsible to put everything together to reach a conclusion about pollution going on. It's really irking. I've been warning about PCBs for 20 years now, and I was hoping that at 50, I wouldn't still have to be fighting that battle. And finding PCBs in Mohawk (Indian) waters is one of the worst places for PCBs to be found, because their traditional way of life is based on hunting and fishing for protein.

If others at DEC don't want to speak out about pollution problems, why do they object to your approach?

One problem with DEC is that the pollution problems are massive. There are PCBs, agricultural pesticides, formaldehyde, asbestos. Every battle is different. For one thing, it does disrupt



the bureaucracy. When I come along in 1976 and say there's a mirex problem in Lake Ontario, it interferes with several programs. It's bound to cause people in the bureaucracy to be upset.

The problem is not always at the executive level. You have to go through people who missed the pollution in the first place. Why did they miss it? With the team effort, you give up your individuality and creativity. Science is creative. Bureaucracy makes it like constructing a tinker toy.

That way can be convenient. You have short work weeks. You don't beat your brains out with the data and administrators and attorneys, but then it's difficult for the technical story to come through the way it should.

You know how it is. People in a bureaucracy feel threatened, so even if you're right they won't support you. Some people when they attain power just want to cruise. I feel that if someone's water is polluted, they have a right to know right away.

Shouldn't that be DEC's policy?

There is a tendency for bureaucracies to make much of what the public can observe. We need increasing scrutiny.

It's my understanding that the \$230,000 with which Commissioner Jorling is now funding your unit comes with some strings attached.

The \$225,000 from the legislature was half of our budget, and it came from the outside, brought money into the agency. Now that \$230,000 is coming from DEC's budget, it could be at the expense of other programs.

Isn't it true that part of the \$230,000 is Superfund money, so that if the work you do doesn't deal with Superfund sites, you won't even be able to use it?

I guess that's so.

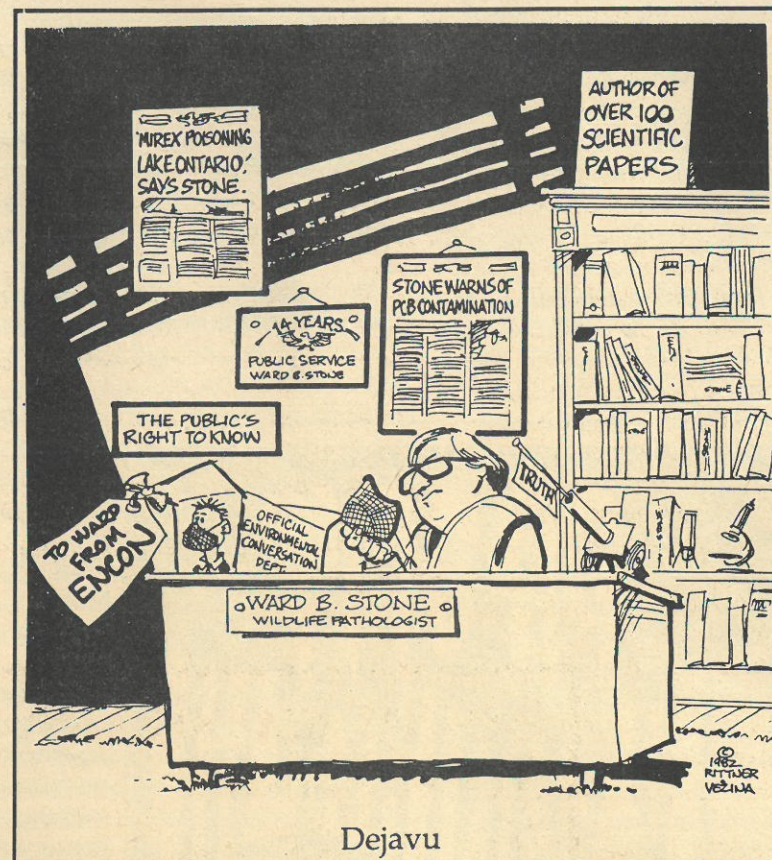
I just read that scientists have discovered that there is a bacteria they've found at sites where PCBs have been dumped, and that this type of bacteria eats PCBs. Will this help the problem at all?

Even if it's true, most PCBs were dumped around 1975. It's now nearly 1990 and we still have a massive problem with PCBs. We have many generations to go before they're out of the food chain.

What can be done?

We need an exchange of official information between different efforts, but we need more emphasis on technical people and creativity instead of politics and bureaucracy. DEC needs labs, more technical people and more spirited leadership of bureaus, divisions, sections and units.

What's happening is a sad thing. Unless we change our society and make our bureaucracies responsible for the discovery of environmental problems, there is little long term hope for maintaining our environment even in the degraded state it's in now.



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Nassau Lake: Another Love Canal?

by Richard Crist

An "inactive" hazardous waste site in the Rensselaer County town of Nassau may be responsible for contamination in a nearby lake and its estuaries.

Nassau Lake, located within a mile of the closed Dewey Loeffel dumpsite which has a greater volume of buried chemicals than Love Canal, is currently in its second summer under a "no eat" order concerning fish caught in the lake. County officials suspect that sewage from the landfill, closed in 1970 and capped off in 1984, may be responsible for the contamination.

Last summer, County Executive John Buono, fearful that possible leakage from the site could turn the lake into a "chemical lagoon," called on the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to honor an agreement to monitor the site on a quarterly basis.

Buono had found that DEC had not tested the site on a quarterly basis as promised in the contract settlement between the DEC and three companies involved in the dumping through the 1950's, General Electric, Bendix Company, and the Schenectady Chemical Company.

In a letter to Buono, last summer, DEC commissioner Thomas Jorling stated that the lapse in testing was due to staff shortages and more pressing concerns in the department.

When DEC did manage to test the lake, the results were less than heartening. A 1986 test done on white perch found 46 parts per billion of PCB's in the fish, 20 times over the maximum federally allowed level of 2 parts per million. Tests done last fall, according to Jim Colguhoun of DEC, found results largely the same.

"Essentially levels are above the FDA's levels of two parts per million," he said, "and there would be no reason to relax the advisory concerning fish caught from the lake." Colguhoun is cautiously optimistic that further tests will conclusively determine if contamination in the lake is the result of leakage from the sealed waste site. "Right now," he said, "it's impossible to tell if contamination in Nassau Lake results from old contamination."

Buono said he was informed by DEC Deputy Commissioner Edward Sullivan that contamination may be the result of "plumes" or pockets of chemical waste outside the concentrated area of the landfill not found when the landfill was closed in 1970.

Buono also said that Sullivan indicated to him that DEC may be asking General Electric for additional compensation for clean-up costs. At a cost of \$3 million to three companies involved in dumping at the property, the

landfill was sealed with clay, a solidified retaining wall, and a trench over 70 feet deep, 4 feet wide, and graded to ensure that any run-off was kept inside the site. With those precautions in mind, DEC and county officials don't completely discount the possibility of dumping in other areas of the lake.

The contamination of the lake unfortunately has not been kept exclusive. Sediment contaminated with PCB's was found in the Valatie Kill, which runs into and from the lake and connects with many streams and lakes in nearby Columbia County.

Lake residents say they're concerned that the lake, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary this summer, will be affected by negative stigma as a result of the contamination. Nassau Lake Association President Ed Helmich said that life is normal on the lake, which also has youth summer camps soon opening, even with reports of the chemical harm to the lake.

"People still do all the things they've done for 200 years," Helmich said. "The water quality of the lake is great."

Helmich said that the groups members are waiting on further test results to determine where the contamination is emanating from. "We'll hold judgement until we see if something else is happening."

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Lesbian/Gay Community Notes

by Libby Post & Jim Perry

As many of you are already aware, on June 6 the Republican Conference of the New York State Senate rejected, for the third year in a row, the "Bias-Related Violence and Intimidation Act".

The bill has been introduced each year since 1987 at the request of the Governor and the Attorney General, to begin to address the issue of bias-motivated crimes and to stop the harassment and violence directed at lesbians and gays as well as African-Americans, Hispanics, Jews, women, the elderly, the handicapped and everyone who might be a target of hate crime from another individual or group.

The logic and importance of this legislation to protect such a basic and fundamental right (the right to exist and walk the streets and public places) seemed so clear to us at the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby that we were very hopeful and had reason to believe that the Republican Conference had seen the error of their ways and would follow the example of the New York State Assembly (which passed the bill last year with overwhelming bi-partisan support). Not to be!

A few days after Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino pronounced the bias-crime bill dead, Karen Clark, the open lesbian State Representative from Minnesota came to Albany to visit friends. She made us aware of two bills the Minnesota legislature had passed: a comprehensive bias-crime bill that had just passed and was signed into law this past May and a bias-crime reporting bill that had been passed the year before. She convinced us that passing the reporting bill first had led to broader support (like police departments) for comprehensive bias-crime bill. She insisted that the strategy had worked in other states as well.

On June 19 some of us at the Lesbian & Gay Lobby decided that enough of our brothers and sisters had been beaten, killed, harassed or intimidated so we staged a vigil in front of Senator Marino's capitol office to express our outrage that the bias bill had been held up once again and that the Republican Conference had killed the bill in a closed door session (so there would be no public debate or vote on the Senate floor). After chanting "Senator Marino, where's the bias bill?" which made quite a noise in those vaulted marble halls, to our surprise we were invited in to speak with Senator Marino. We had what can only be described as a very frank discussion. In the end Senator Marino agreed to look at the two Minnesota bills, to draft legislation that would address the problem of bias-motivated crimes and be acceptable to his conference and to the lesbian/gay community! We'll see. He also agreed to publicly acknowledge the violence directed at lesbians and gays. That much he has done.

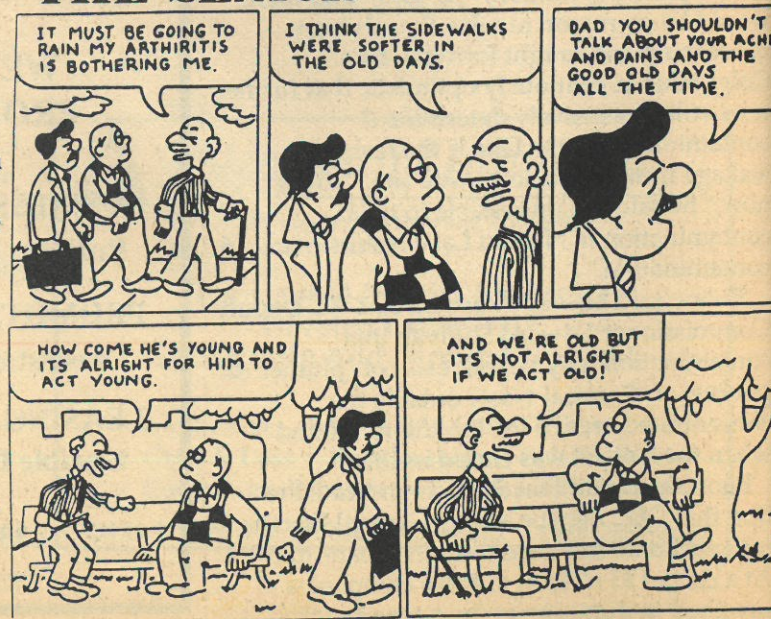
On another front, there are four important races for

Common Council in Albany this year. These races are important to the lesbian/gay community and the larger progressive community for at least two reasons. First we could end up with four capable and responsible leaders on the Common Council (something that is appallingly lacking right now). Second we can send Mayor Whalen and the Albany Democratic Machine a message that we are very unhappy with their treatment of lesbian/gay civil rights with last years defeat of the ordinances, which have extended some measure of protection to lesbians and gays in the areas of housing and employment (City Hall's record on civil rights for African-Americans and women is dismal as well).

Alderman Nebraska Brace has long been a champion of the needs of the oppressed in our city. Not much he and Nancy Burton (who regrettably decided to retire from the council) could accomplish in the face of the Machine votes on the Council. He deserves our continued support (and I'm sure he would welcome some more support on the Council). Sharon Ward now wears the fiercely independent mantle of Nancy Burton in the Sixth Ward. Her experience and roots in the community commands our support. Jimmy Scalzo is challenging Tom Burch—need I say more—in the Tenth Ward. In the Second Ward, Keith St. John, black, gay, energetic, compassionate, smart, young attorney seems to embody the changes in his ward. He's challenging Arthur (do-nothing) Scott, yes-man machine hack.

Each of these candidates needs our votes, time, money—GIVE SOMETHING! You can send checks to the individual candidates and send them c/o Citizen Action, 314 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206.

THE SENIOR CLASS by wheeler



AIDS and Prostitution: No Need for Mandatory Testing

by Gilda Augustine

While women continue to comprise an increasing percentage of the total number of AIDS cases, public policy addressing the needs of women at risk for HIV (the AIDS virus) has been slow to evolve. Slow—except where female prostitutes are concerned.

Prostitutes began to draw attention from public health officials and policymakers when it became apparent that the AIDS epidemic was not restricted to gay and bisexual men. Because prostitutes have many anonymous sex partners, some of whom may be bisexual or IV drug users, they were suspected of transmitting AIDS to heterosexual men. The fear of a widespread epidemic among the heterosexual population prompted municipalities and states to propose or enact policies aimed at preventing the transmission of AIDS from prostitutes to their customers.

The policies enacted include mandatory HIV testing of persons arrested or convicted of prostitution and of those employed by legal brothels in Nevada. Thirteen states have implemented such policies by extending existing sexually transmitted disease laws and sex offender statutes to include HIV testing. (New York does not have a mandatory testing policy).

A common misperception about prostitution, which may have fueled the proposal and enactment of criminal laws surrounding AIDS, is that prostitutes are responsible for spreading sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The U.S. Public Health Service, however, estimates that only 5 percent of the venereal disease in this country is related to prostitution.

Furthermore, women who do AIDS prevention-outreach work with prostitutes report that they are more likely than other women to know the symptoms of STDs and that for several years it has been common practice for most prostitutes to use condoms for all encounters with customers. In addition, with the advent of the AIDS epidemic, many massage parlors and brothels have adopted an "all condom" policy, where condoms must be used for any type of sexual service.

Prostitutes who are most likely to engage in unprotected sex are those women and girls who use IV drugs and those who trade sex for drugs. It is estimated that a third to one half of street prostitutes use IV drugs. In New York City, for example, one quarter to one third of street prostitutes are thought to be infected with the AIDS virus because of IV drug use. However street prostitution

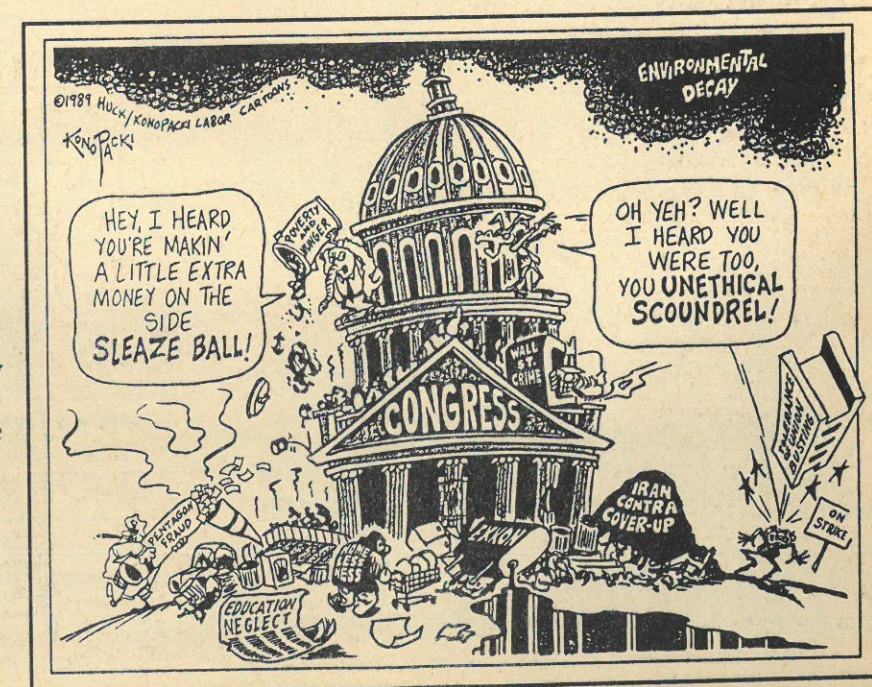
comprises only 20% of all prostitution. Other categories of prostitutes (e.g. call girls, escort service workers, and brothel prostitutes have nearly 0 percent HIV Infection).

Government and private studies reveal that prostitutes are not transmitting HIV at a significant rate. But even if they were, mandatory testing is a one-sided policy at best. It does nothing to prevent transmission from customers to prostitutes, nor can it guarantee that an HIV infected prostitute will refrain from prostitution.

Are there alternatives to mandatory testing? Of course. Because most of the prostitutes at risk for HIV are crack or IV drug users we need to provide effective drug treatment programs for them. (No one is going to heed the AIDS message while addicted to drugs). Next, the same group of women should be targeted for preventative education and outreach programs with a voluntary HIV testing component. For those women testing positive, and for those who want to change occupations, educational or vocational training and a transitional source of income should be available.

Politicians like mandatory testing because it makes them look good. They are taking a hard-line against prostitution. But should they genuinely want to reduce the impact of the AIDS epidemic, policymakers will take a closer look at the alternatives.

Gilda Augustine has a M.A. Public Affairs and Policy and is a member Capital District Woman's Political Caucus.





Parental Consent: A Bad Idea

by Christy Powell

Many people following the abortion debate understand that the Supreme Court is now considering a case which might result in throwing the issue of abortion rights back to the states to regulate. What many of these people may not realize is that several state legislatures, including our own, are already considering legislation that would restrict our right to safe and legal abortion.

The State's budget recently adopted in April, passed one such test when a vote in the Republican-controlled State Senate failed to garner enough votes to prohibit Medicaid funding for abortion. Now our state lawmakers are considering "parental consent" legislation, that if enacted, would severely threaten a minor's right to have access to an abortion.

Senator Padavan and Assemblyman Robach have introduced legislation (S-1189/A-1763) that would require written consent of both parents (custodial parent if divorced) or a court order for an abortion in New York State to any unmarried female under 18.

Hard evidence from Massachusetts and Minnesota, where similar laws were enacted in 1981, shows that pregnant minors were forced into a traumatic court experience or traveled out of state to obtain a confidential abortion. The result has been later, riskier abortions and an increase in high risk teen childbearing, not reduced sexual activity or fewer teenage pregnancies.

In a case challenging Minnesota's law, teenagers, parents, judges, lawyers and psychologists testified that it had no positive effect, but described how the law seriously jeopardized a minors' health and imposed extreme hardship, requiring young woman to overcome legal, financial, and practical obstacles to exercise their constitutional right to a confidential abortion.

Studies show that most young woman do involve at least one parent voluntarily in their abortion decision. Those who cannot are often burdened by poor home life; parents who are alcoholic, physically, psychologically or sexually abusive, dependent on drugs, ill, unstable or have marital problems. Compelling them to involve such parents or obtain a court order is punitive and cannot possibly foster communication or strengthen the family.

There is no evidence that the proposed legislation is needed. Public health associations, parents' groups, professional, medical, psychological and legal organizations are not calling for any changes in New York's current policy and practice, which assures that all minors can get the prompt medical attention they need. The only groups seeking to require such restrictions are those that consistently oppose all abortion.

Parental consent legislation must be defeated, and our state legislators from the Capital District must be educated

with the facts about this bill. While proponents of the bill believe that this kind of legislation will stop abortion, the experience of parental laws enacted elsewhere clearly demonstrates otherwise. If you are interested in more information on parental consent laws, or would like to know how your legislator stands on this issue, call Family Planning Advocates, Inc. of New York State at (518) 436-8408.

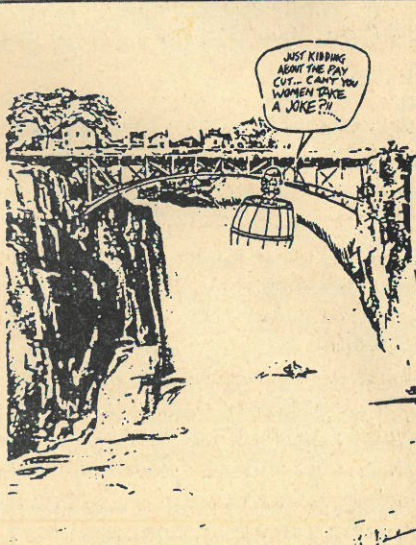
Christy Powell is Legislative Director at Family Planning Advocates, Inc. of New York State, and a member of the Capital District Women's Political Caucus.

WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Chapter 27 Victory in Paterson

With the great depression of the 1870s over, workers were in no mood for further pay cuts. In Paterson, New Jersey employer greed collided with worker anger to produce one of the biggest strikes ever known in the United States of that era.

When Robert and Henry Adams, owners of textile mills in Paterson, announced the third pay cut in less than a year, the 550 unorganized mill workers, mostly women and children, walked out. On June 20, 1878, they appealed "to their fellow workmen and women throughout the United States to aid them in their struggle against starvation and poverty."



Several demonstrations and processions took place during the strike; a highpoint was a demonstration of some 10,000 on July 20, which featured a march through Paterson to the Passaic Falls. Wearing their prettiest dresses, the defiant mill women carried placards proclaiming "We ask to live comfortably and educate our children."

When the Adams brothers brought strikebreakers from New England, the strikers met them at the railroad station, convinced them not to scab, and paid their way back home with funds raised in the community. After nine months, the company gave in -- and offered a wage increase instead of a pay cut.



All is Quiet on the "Southern" Front

by Dave Millard

The Hudson River Valley is a beautiful place to live, visit, or play, but if your travels take you to the rolling hills near Poughkeepsie and outward bound into the winding country roads to Stormville, New York, the beauty of the scenery is abruptly shattered by the stark ominous presence of Greenhaven Correctional Facility. The silent grey concrete of its outer walls surrounds the maximum security facility and hides all from the public eye. To those who have never visited such a place it is hard to visualize any good coming out of such environs, and often this is true, but not in the case of "The Haven."

Deep within the bowels of the prison, down what seems to be miles of steamy dank corridors, through dozens of locking gates, in a small cluster of rooms tucked away in some forgotten corner of purgatory, hope and pride reign supreme. It is in these "special" rooms that freedom is not just a dream, but a reality that was hard earned and paid for in sweat and blood many years ago. This is the home of the Veterans Self Help Project or "VHSP." VHSP started out as a rap group of Viet-Nam Veterans who felt that the crimes they committed may have had some connection with readjustment problems they continued to experience from their service in Viet-Nam. Today VSHP under the able directorship of Ed Timmons and his staff of fellow incarcerated veterans continues to provide for the mental and physical well being of its members and stresses the worthiness of each veteran inmate through pride in having served their country, state and community in the Viet-Nam war.

VSHP is no "Pity Party" by any means. To a man, each member recognizes that he is incarcerated for a crime that he alone is responsible for, and the energies they expend are not put into appeals but into learning, healing and service to others. To enter into these healing rooms in the company of the VSHP members is totally disarming after the apprehensive walk through the prison. Fear is replaced by the sense of well being that is possible only when you "know" your among friends.

VSHP began reaching beyond the walls of "The Haven" with its message of hope and pride with a unique newsletter they called *Charlie-Mike* (military radio jargon for "Continue Mission"). In a very short time *Charlie-Mike* became one of the best veterans newsletter published in New York State. *Charlie-Mike* grew in circulation and candidness, and was a true credit not only to VSHP but to the prison staff that allowed and helped fund its printing and distribution. *Charlie-Mike* traveled across the state and nation with the truth about Agent Orange, PTSD, V.A. and healing stories and poems about the way home from the Nam.

Then it happened. Mario wrote more checks than the bank would honor, he panicked and called all his friends in to find

ways to cover his butt. His friends at Department of Corrections offered to help him out right off the top, after all inmates aren't allowed to picket for parity or fair treatment. And if they did get noisy, you can always "lock'em down" or "show'm who's boss."

Attempts were made by private individuals and local Viet-Nam veterans to fund *Charlie-Mike* on an interim basis so that the truth would prevail, but when VSHP tried to print the first "subsidized" issue it was raped by prison staff censors, even an article about the Rensselaer County "Poisoned Warrior Project" was dropped as inflammatory!

Bob Gardella the editor of *Charlie-Mike* and VSHP director Ed Timmons got together with the membership. They decided that rather than field a newsletter that served no purpose, they would stand on their first and fourteen amendments rights and not publish until the yoke of oppression was lifted from VSHP and *Charlie-Mike*. Five months later, we are still waiting.

Fortunately this column in HARDCOPY endows on myself the right to expose this gross violation of constitutional and human rights by exercising my own, without censorship.

I have written to Stephen G. Adler, Deputy of Programs on two occasions to support VSHP/*Charlie-Mike* and ask why he feels that "The Poisoned Warrior Project" is a "negative thing." To date he hasn't had the decency to reply in any manner. Mr. Adler is the man directly responsible for the hatchet job on *Charlie-Mike* and favors himself as censorship board too! If you have a minute, drop him a note and tell him your thoughts. You can write him c/o Deputy of Programs, Greenhaven Correctional Facility, Stormville, New York 12582. Take the time to speak for those who remain silenced.

Tomorrow's Song

A sound is heard throughout the land.
Low, and piercing, from the strike of a hand.
A cry is heard over the earth,
From the painful words of demeaning self worth.
A whine from a child's lungs thus came,
Scarred with the tone of harrowing shame.
A circle of light, Promise of hope,
Overcast by those who can't cope.
What shall be done, to revoke this mistake,
And show them the dawn, when the children awake?
--S. Brooke Dannenberg, Age 15



At the Movies...

by Matt Hough

THOSE JONES BOYS AT IT AGAIN

There's going to be a tremendous split in reactions to "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." For those who admired the original picture of the series, the wonderful 1981 "Raiders of the Lost Ark," this is going to seem like it's a kissing cousin. For those who preferred the wall-to-wall action and noise of the 1984 "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," this will seem milder and less involving. I'm caught on the fence myself. I admired both pictures individually for their differences rather than as parts of the same whole. This latest adventure seems to bring us full circle; the decision to do so in the end seems a wise one.

Harrison Ford is back as roving archaeologist Indiana Jones, this time in a quest for the Holy Grail. His father, noted medieval literature expert Dr. Henry Jones (Sean Connery), has spent his life gathering information on the location of the mythical cup of Christ, but he has suddenly vanished while on an expedition to finally track it down. It's up to "Junior," as Father grudgingly calls his only son, to rescue his father from his enemies, specifically the Nazis.

The screenwriters used the Nazis as the antagonists in the original "Raiders," so having another corps of goosesteppers in the villains' boots seems appropriate here especially since, as in the first film, much is made about the possessor of the sacred item (the Ark of the Covenant in the first film), having God's power to validate their endeavors.

The film, in the grand tradition of Indy adventures, is a fanciful series of elaborate chases as Indiana pursues his quarry across seas and continents until, as you can probably guess, he does have the chance to obtain the holy chalice.

To say more would spoil some of the most well staged action sequences since, well, Indy's sojourn in the Temple of Doom. There are far too many to list here, but the extended sequence with the German tank is by far the film's premiere set piece, and it's as absorbing a set of maneuvers as this company has ever placed on film.

George Lucas, Menno Meyjes, and Jeffrey Boam have also written some continually entertaining dialogue for father and son to deliver to one another as an abrasive camaraderie between the two almost estranged men develops. These two expert actors pull it off as a parent-child duo despite having little resemblance to one another in facial features or mannerisms.

The writers come up a bit short with their denouement, however, as Indy must solve three riddles to be granted entry to the storehouse of the Grail. This

sequence, more reminiscent of the climactic moments in "The Goonies" than anything in the other Indy movies, is a bit of a letdown, especially after so much imagination has poured forth in the other films. But one can't fault them too much for running low on gas after the highly diverting exploits which have carried the film's first 100 minutes have passed by.

Director Steven Spielberg stages his action and quiet scenes beautifully with special mention going to the film's prologue. He gives a tantalizing look at the young Indy in 1912 when, as a scout, he becomes engaged to the idea of adventuring for artifacts and sustains both his chin scar and his loathing of snakes. It gets the film off to a rousing start.

Besides the two formidable acting talents in the leading roles, there are moments for John Rhys-Davies and Denholm Elliott to shine as two of Indy's returning cohorts from the first film, and for meanies Julian Glover and Michael Byrne to scowl menacingly at our heroes.

So, even if this is good-bye to Indiana Jones, we can feel good about the series maintaining its high standard of movie comic book excellence. "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" brings down the curtain with pride on a wonderful and seemingly unbeatable movie series.

[On a four star scale, this film would rate 3 stars.]



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Fast for Justice

by Art Fleischner

Although the struggle of migrant farm workers and their union, the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), AFL-CIO, has been ongoing for 20 years, Ed Biittig, Sr., a member of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1112, has aided the struggle since January 1, 1989. He has been fasting the first three days of every month and will continue to do so for the rest of 1989. His total of 36 days will equal the fast of Caesar Chavez, President of UFW.

Ed is an active trade unionist and represents CWA on the Troy Area Labor Council and the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District. Like many others he is doing something to support the boycott of California table grapes,

grapes that have just entered Capital District area supermarkets. The grape season usually lasts through December.

The boycott is in effect not only to help farmworkers in California secure a contract that will pay decent wages and benefits, but also to provide healthy working conditions.

Presently, farmworkers are forced to use dangerous pesticides that have proved to cause nausea, vomiting, and birth defects. Some of these pesticides can not be washed off once they are sprayed. Thus the boycott is being used to warn consumers all over the country about the dangers.

The following correspondence from Ed explains why he is fasting.

About six months ago, I started to leaflet area stores about the pesticides on California table grapes. At that time I sent for a copy of the video "Wrath of Grapes." On Christmas Eve while my family was watching television, I put the tape on for my

step-daughter, Shannon 18, my son Eddie, Jr, 17 and their friend Jay 19. While they watched the tape you could tell that this was not what they expected. When the tape was finished we talked about the contents. They said they didn't know that this treatment of people would be allowed in this country until they saw the tape. They now have a different opinion.

After watching this tape with my family I knew I had to do more to let people know about the California Grape boycott. I decided to Fast for the first three days of each month in 1989, the number of days to match the total number that Caesar Chavez had fasted in 1988.

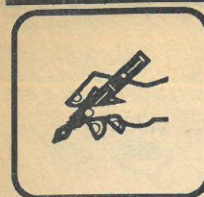
I had never fasted for one day let alone three days. I didn't know how I would feel after three days of not eating. It wasn't

that bad. I think everyone in my home was unsure if they should eat in front of me or not. One thing everyone around me found out was how important this issue was to me. This has also become very important to other members of my family. My wife Betty is taking grape boycott information to work and having people sign pledge sheets to boycott California

table grapes. My son Eddie Jr., who lives in New Hampshire, is a senior in high school. After spending Christmas with me, Eddie asked if he could take some of material on the boycott home with him. Since then I have sent the Wrath of Grapes tape to him and he is showing it in his school. This Fast is helping us to become a closer family.

Fasting is not for everyone, but if you would like to try it please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 518 868-9300. More importantly, don't buy Californian table grapes until something is done for the United Farm workers.

Edward G Biittig Sr.



Local Expressions

by Scott Berman and S. Brooke Dannenberg

10 Social Programs

by Scott Berman

10 social programs all trying to stop crime,
Congress slashed their budget line
and then there were 9;

9 federally funded agencies all fighting overweight,
one lost its mandate
and then there were 8;

8 semi-autonomous departments each making their own
heaven,
the press wrote some real rough stuff
and then there were seven;

7 public service commissions seeking ill s to be fixed,
But, a district judge got in his licks
and then there were 6;

6 incumbent senators all bees in a Capitol hive,
one got caught in an Irangate jive
and then there were five;

5 multinational corporations all hoping for a war,
one lost its tax loophole
and then there were 4;

4 cabinet secretaries all smiling in great glee,
But, a memo was leaked for all to see
and then - you guessed it -
there were but three;

3 special interest groups accountable to God knows who,
one forgot what God could do
and bang, kaboom - there were but 2;

2 multinuclear warhead systems both weighing several
tons,
each fell into cost overrun
and alas, poor Yorick - there was but 1;

1 elected president deciding to have fun,
Hit "The Button" with his gun
and Ladies and Gentlemen -
At last there was none.

Left Over

by S. Brooke Dannenberg
(age 15)

I held a child in my arms,
And spoke softly in her ear.
My flesh burned horribly,
with the drop of every tear.

And I said,
My child, your tears are justified.
This world is not for you.
Believe me, I once, too, had cried,
In search of what to do.
So I told here how it used to be,
With rivers as blue as her eyes.
Grass was green and stretched across,
The open countryside.
Trees grew tall and strong,
The sky was blue and wide.
The mountains stood proud and steep,
And the oceans heaved their tide.

And I said,
Cry not, my child, for what has come to pass,
But cry for what is to be!
Cry for the children of this world,
But do not cry for me.
Don't cry too long, sweet child,
I warned.
My eyes lingered in their weary gloom.
My tears denied my eyes the light,
And now you face your doom.

With rivers as black as rotten bones.
Grass as brown as dirt.
Trees are dying, or are dead,
And the sky is grey and hurt.
I leave to you, my gracious child,
the driest desert land,
The oceans water is red with blood,
And the beaches black oil sand.
Believe me, child, it's not too late
To change the world,
Decide your fate,
Fix it, if you can.

HARDCOPY WORD PUZZLE #1

Each month, HARDCOPY will offer a word puzzle that deals with topics found in the current issue.

Answers can be down, backward and diagonal.

V	N	C	P	C	Y	W	P	C	K	B	E	V	H	G	H	P	N	M	W	J	M	G
W	I	L	I	L	X	L	P	D	L	S	S	N	E	T	B	J	L	K	A	A	B	P
N	M	R	M	N	E	E	M	A	D	H	J	S	V	T	C	F	Z	A	M	H	E	C
A	T	E	O	O	L	Q	A	I	R	I	O	I	H	I	S	N	U	E	N	T	T	B
S	G	K	G	L	R	S	A	H	R	E	N	B	M	O	R	F	D	D	N	T	X	W
S	U	A	A	S	K	F	S	L	K	O	N	F	X	M	S	O	W	B	F	H	E	E
A	I	Z	Y	B	F	O	G	A	P	J	V	T	Q	R	Y	F	N	C	N	R	F	G
U	I	S	R	R	E	D	G	U	A	R	D	H	A	F	G	C	K	M	S	K	M	R
L	C	H	I	N	A	H	T	M	Y	B	O	I	S	L	I	Z	A	E	E	L	K	V
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O	L	P	O	P	D	N	I	K	B	O	I	G	H	D	A	F	D	I	L	J	T	R
W	E	X	R	R	A	K	F	B	Y	D	Y	L	J	R	R	S	Y	C	O	V	Y	D
H	H	J	A	Y	S	P	L	R	N	F	W	S	C	H	T	E	Z	D	P	N	C	S
B	G	H	N	Q	G	F	K	I	O	R	D	O	X	D	Z	W	A	F	G	Q	Y	T
K	V	E	G	C	H	A	R	L	I	E	M	I	K	E	C	I	Q	G	G	T	H	O
L	H	M	Q	K	F	I	V	F	J	E	G	A	X	Q	R	O	W	Z	A	O	S	N
C	X	H	A	F	L	S	N	Y	D	X	E	D	V	I	R	I	D	B	P	N	X	E
D	S	G	R	E	E	K	R	E	V	I	V	A	L	R	V	T	U	D	Y	G	N	S

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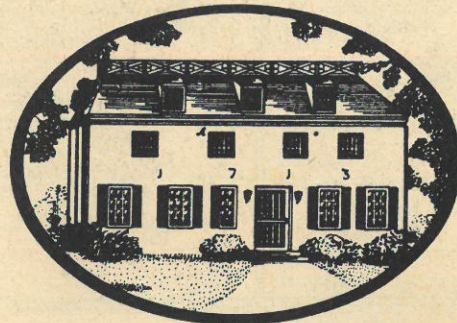
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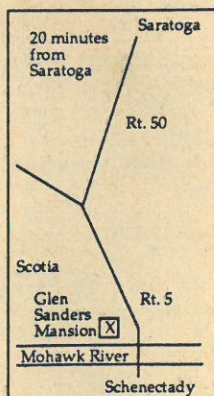
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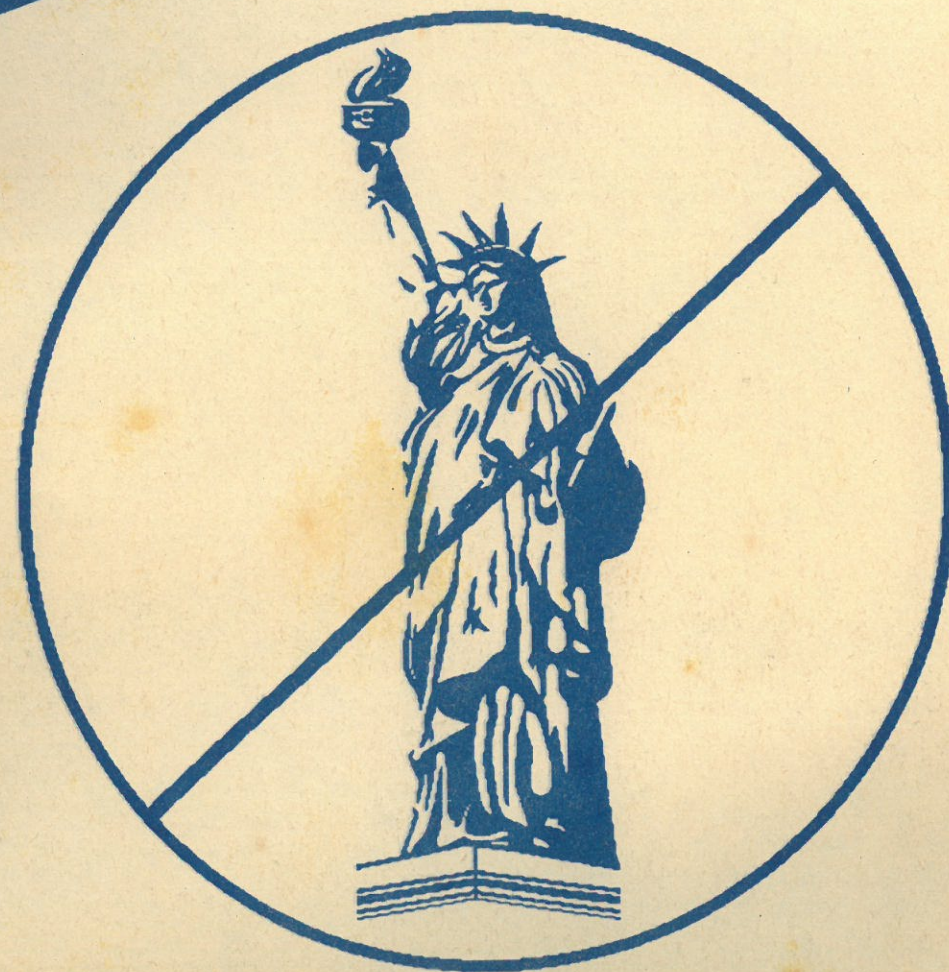
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HARDCOPY
For the Common Good



Justice for Kathie Erickson?

Vox Populi

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COVER: No justice for Kathie Erickson? After blowing the whistle on the Division of Youth, she has been arrested, humiliated, and broke. Even though she has been cleared of charges, her life as a whistle blower has been a traumatic one.

HARDCOPY
notes the passing of Congressman Leland and his associates. His concern for the welfare of fellow human beings will not be forgotten.

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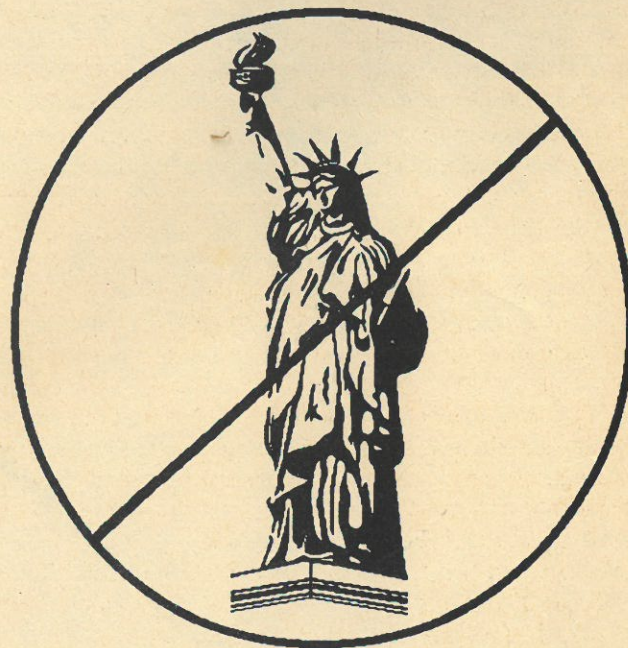
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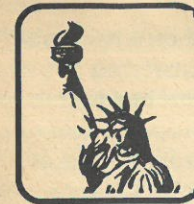
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Kathie Erickson - The Trials of a Whistle Blower

by L.M. Samualis

Mary Katherine (Kathie) Erickson knows the penalties a "whistle blower" must pay if he or she has the courage to reveal that which those in power wish to remain hidden. Here, for the first time, she tells the full story of what happened after she made allegations about the staff at a Division for Youth Facility for boys. The story was so upsetting that Kathie broke down several times. Instead of asking a lot of questions, we let her tell the story in her own words.

MKE: I'll tell you about the situation that prompted me to write a letter, dated June 16, 1987, to the director, Leonard Dunston, of the entire Division for Youth on Holland Avenue in Albany; to the children's ombudsman, Cira Martines; to Les Goldberg, the then assistant director at Holland Avenue; and, most importantly, to the person I had spoken to time and time again, Mr. John Jones, then acting director of the Eddie Parker Center, who is currently assistant director of the center.

The Eddie Parker Center is a facility on about 180 acres in upper Red Hook, New York in a country setting with a pond, and it houses New York State's youngest juvenile delinquents. Most of the residents are ages 10 to 16. They are mostly black residents of the New York City area. They are there for crimes ranging from sodomy, arson, assault, robbery, burglary, mugging and drug dealing to stolen bicycles. Mostly they are there for repeated offenses. Most of the residents are there now for four months at a cost of \$70,000 per year per person. They used to be there for seven months to a year.

When they leave the facility, they return to the juvenile justice system in a matter of months. I have not heard of one success story from the Eddie Parker Center. Most of the newspaper clippings that I have in my possession show that the youth that leave the facility commit more heinous crimes after they have left Eddie Park Center.

My letter to Mr. John Jones said that I had come to him a number of times and told him about staff sleeping on the job, staff abusing residents, staff leaving the unit.

How was the staff abusing the residents?

Other than physically abusing them, picking them up by their necks and slamming them against the wall, throwing them on the floor, calling them mother f---er, there was emotional abuse: "You're a criminal. Your mother doesn't even love you, so shut the f--- up and sit down boy. We don't want to hear anything from you."

There was a great deal of inconsistency in issuing sanctions to the youth. On one particular shift a child could get away with assaulting another kid. It depended on who was working. There was a total lack of consistency at the facility as

far as issuing sanctions. I've seen staff waking up residents by throwing basketballs and hitting them in the head. Staff slept so soundly- in my letter I say that staff gets more sleep than the residents do, allowing the residents to rape each other. I said in my letter that residents were sexually abusing one another because staff were either high on drugs or sleeping.

How long had you worked there, at the Eddie Parker Center?

I worked there for six years-five years when I wrote the letter. I was the only white female youth division aide there for five years, one of the line workers who dealt directly with the youth. We monitored their behavior, we issued sanctions, we counceled them, we made sure they brushed their teeth, came back from school on time. We deal with their day to day routine. Our supervisors are called youth division counselors.

I started in June, 1982. I had worked with children for 12 years by the time I wrote that letter. I had run a group home and had lived with juveniles for two years and never was accused of child abuse-ever.

What else was in the letter?

I also wrote that Mr. John Jones had tried to cover up the fact that the staff were abusive toward the residents, were drinking, using drugs and calling in late, falsifying time sheets- just overall corrupt. The very same day he received my letter, he requested my time sheets from my supervisor, Jerry Blanton. He immediately went to work on trying to harass me. Jerry Blanton has since resigned and lives in Florida. His wife was a head nurse at the facility, but they quit because they couldn't take it anymore, and they had been there for ten years.

By requesting your time sheets, he was trying to get something on you?

Oh, absolutely. That was June 16th, when Mr. Jones received my letter and it was on June 16th that he requested my time sheet. On June 28th, or thereabouts, the residents came to me and said that there had been a sexual incident regarding the Country Crib Unit, the unit that I worked on. Mr. Jones was called on the phone and I informed him that the kids had said there was sexual activity. He immediately instructed me to take statements, as is Division for Youth procedure. When a report of sodomy, alleged penetration is made, the youth division aide immediately takes statements from the residents.

As I'm taking statements, a series of allegations comes out from all the residents regarding two youth division aides from my unit. The statements from the residents were about being abused by the aides. I had seen one of them abuse residents and use drugs on the grounds of the facility a number of times. I signed a statement against him and he was never arrested, even though he is a felon who

"The most horrible thing I ever saw was a staff person throw a kid on the floor and put his groin in the kid's face and pump that kid's face, and that kid got gonorrhea of the mouth."

was in jail for felonious assault. I verified this myself. He was suspended a number of times from the Division for Youth for numerous violent acts against children and staff.

In my arbitration hearings, my director said under oath that this aide was indeed indicted for physical abuse against a resident, yet he was never arrested, disciplined or sanctioned in any way even though he was on probation at the time due to watching x-rated movies and sleeping while supposedly monitoring the children.

My friend, Sylvia Honig, a social worker at the Brookwood Facility wrote up this aide for abusing residents there ten years before I wrote him up. I testified to the Dutchess County grand jury about him and I have repeatedly filed complaints with the state police about this man and his drugs and I went to the New York State Police about the staff at my facility who use drugs and they did nothing.

As a matter of fact, the two New York State Police officers, John Way and George Lawson don't work there anymore. Isn't that convenient? The police station is only three blocks away from the Eddie Parker Center.

Anyway, Mr. Jones had a meeting with Veronica Frazier and me. He called me the most destructive person he had ever met. We had the meeting to talk about my concerns about the unit, although in arbitration he swore under oath that he never saw my letter. I have a certified return receipt! He told me I should be fired from the facility, that on the day of all the statement taking about the sodomy, I should have minded my own business. He allowed the two aides previously mentioned to take their own set of statements to cover up what the kids said about them to me. These men were snatching the kids up by their necks as they were leaving the room I was interviewing them in and making them write their own statements all over again. It was a nightmare.

I was also brutally assaulted by a resident after my meeting with John Jones. I honestly feel that they allowed the kid to do this. I had to go to the hospital for treatment and missed five days of work with a bruised throat and bruised ribs and when I came back to work on July 22nd, the same year, I saw the kid still in the same unit, which is

unheard of in the Division for Youth. When a resident attacks the staff, they're immediately transferred to another facility and they had never had an incident review, which is, legally, what a facility is supposed to do when staff is assaulted. There are pictures of me at the Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, taken after that attack, and still they did nothing to that kid. So his actions were sanctioned, because they were trying to get rid of me.

Mr Jones said I should be transferred, why don't I quit if I don't like it here, why don't I leave. How come I'm causing so many problems. I said, "I don't like coming to work and seeing a kid with bruises on his neck crying because someone picked him up and slammed him because he had a hangover from drinking the night before. I don't like covering for people who take cocaine. I'm sick and tired of people doing drugs in front of me and I'm sick and tired of people coming in smelling like a brewery." The most horrible thing I ever saw was a staff person throw a kid on the floor and put his groin in the kid's face and pump that kid's face, and that kid got gonorrhea of the mouth. He was raped by a man. That was in 1983.

Things started to change really for the worse in 1986 when John Jones became assistant director. He came from the Brookwood Facility in Claverack. It's the good old boy network. The men who are at the Eddie Parker Center are not there because of the childcare techniques they know, but because of who they know. One of my biggest gripes with the state hiring system for the Division for Youth aides is that there is no testing. I feel all aides should be tested, should be hired on their qualifications, but most of the people there are hired off the street with little or no qualifications at all, and they're usually a friend of a friend, so they're a very tight knit group and are pretty much allowed to get away with any just about any act of flagrant misconduct.

I said all of these things in front of Miss Veronica Frazier, who, of course, went brain dead at my arbitration in April. She said it was so long ago that she just didn't remember. Well, Miss Frazier has to face Mr. Jones each and every day, and I understand how it would be difficult to remember something that would be detrimental to Mr. Jones' reputation. Mr. Jones lied under oath at my arbitration several times.

Then, in August, I am told by Mr. Rick Bull, my then unit supervisor, that I was to be placed on administrative leave, because of the allegations made against me. I said, "Allegations against me. You mean the allegations I made against my coworkers!" He said: "No, I know no more than that you are going to be put on leave without pay because of the allegations made against you."

I didn't know what he was talking about. So I went a week not knowing what's going on until Mr. Hal Miller, the district supervisor calls me into the facility and says that there are sexual allegations against me. I said,

"What! By whom?" But he wouldn't tell me who the kids were or if they were from my unit. Whenever allegations are made against female staff, which happens pretty often at an all male facility, we deal with it directly. We talk to the resident right then and there. It's dealt with and the kid is sanctioned. The staff tells them that's inappropriate and they don't want to hear that anymore.

Well, they took me in the door, and he brought me back to work on the 12 to 8 shift at night with the very same people against whom I had lodged complaints to work as a shadow. They didn't want me alone with the children. In reality, it was a form of house arrest. "Let's try to put the pressure on her until this bitch quits." That's what I was told by the shop steward of the Eddie Parker Center, who never helped me at all, because he's part of the old boy network.

In the meantime, my boyfriend Teddy was dying of AIDS at the Albany Medical Center, so I was spending six or seven hours a day taking care of him. He went there at the beginning of August. He worked at Eddie Parker for seven years. We had broken up for about a year, and then when I found out he was dying, I moved my daughter to my sister's and moved Teddy into my home, but he got so bad that we had to put him into the hospital in the very beginning of August.

So I was taking care of Teddy during the day, and going down to Eddie Parker every night to work with people who hated my guts, being called weeny waggon and sex abuser and not knowing until the end of December who these kids were. I repeatedly tried to get information from William Whidholm, the man who became the director of the facility, but he wouldn't let me talk to any kids. So here I'm working from 12 at night to eight in the morning. I have to be around someone at all times, which is so humiliating, watching them sleeping, falsifying the logs and taking it easy, because I'm awake all night.

Anyway, from August until October, nothing much happened except that Teddy did die and they wouldn't give me a day off with pay to make the funeral arrangements. They held my check back and I had to wait eight weeks to get it. They said I couldn't have the day off with pay because he wasn't a family member. He had worked at the Eddie Parker Center and I had been with him seven years, but they said he wasn't a family member. Actually, it was all part of the harassment. I had to take it without pay, which means the state holds your check for eight weeks.

So staff at the facility were trying to get me to sign off the unit. Everybody was talking about me behind my back. There were some staunch supporters who said the place was bizarre. We used to have a joke, calling the place "Camp Runamuck." My coworkers said they'd talk if there ever was an investigation.

In the meantime, Mr. Ed Dominelli from the New York State Inspector General's office, who was attached to the Division for Youth, was doing some kind of investigation at the Eddie Parker Center at the request of my supervisor, Jerry Blanton, who had a number of concerns about administrative incompetence. Actually, that was in July. My

chronology is a little out of order. I was called in, and spoke to Mr. Anthony Dorangrichia and told him about some of the acts of misconduct I had witnessed and about the aide using drugs. My understanding is that nothing has come of this.

I was under a tremendous amount of stress then because I had not slept much because of taking care of Teddy. Then, around August 10, the Department of Social Services called me and said they would like to interview me about child abuse, so I went right from

"They asked me if I had ever touched residents' penises. Had I ever run naked in the fields"

taking care of Teddy at the hospital and went down to the Division for Youth and sat in with Betsy Mannix and Cheryl Flannigan.

They conducted a very poor investigation. They asked me if I had ever touched residents' penises. Had I ever run naked in the fields. I said, "What? No, of course I've never run naked in the fields." I was absolutely hysterical. I burst into tears. They asked if I had ever thrown a cup at a kid, which I was charged with. I denied everything. I asked them to ask a certain resident, and then I found out later on that he was the one who started the story.

I denied all allegations and was visibly upset. I just could not understand how they could ask such questions. I told them about the aide and about how other staff had been beating the kids, but I was too exhausted to go into details because I had just about given up fighting. All my strength was drained from taking care of Teddy, from coming to work every day, being accused of having AIDS myself, being harassed every day by the administration and staff.

So after I spoke with them on August 10th, I never heard from them again. Things were pretty quiet at the Division for Youth, other than that things were still the same. Staff were calling the kids niggers and mother f---ers and they were smacking them and staff were coming in doing drugs. They were high, drinking beer, sleeping all the time, leaving the unit at night to do their own personal laundry, leaving the kids alone in the bedroom areas.

So one day in November, I was not allowed to be alone with the residents, but I happened to be in the kitchen of the Country Crib Unit doing some dishes and tidying up the laundry and a couple of kids came in, and one of the kids said, "Miss Erickson, we want to tell you what happened." They said, "You've been set up." I said, "What? You guys can't talk to me. You better get out of here or we'll all be in trouble."

They were just little kids. They told me, "You

wouldn't believe what they've been saying about you." I was just thrilled that finally a kid would approach me and tell me what was going on. I just didn't know what was going on. So finally, I wrote a letter to William Whidholm and said, "Please can I talk to these kids? My whole reputation is being shot." He wrote me a memo saying under no circumstances could I interview any of the residents.

The month before, in October, he had come in at six o'clock in the morning and asked me if I was going to resign, that Hal Miller, the district supervisor wanted to know. I

"I came down and was greeted by George Schweigart from the Rhinebeck state police barracks, and he arrested me in front of my coworkers on four counts of sexual abuse."

said, "Absolutely not. For what? I have done nothing wrong. You tell Mr. Miller the answer is absolutely not."

So in November, after the little kids talked to me, I was kind of happy that maybe I could find out who had made these allegations and I hired a private investigator named Eugene Flowers in Poughkeepsie and begged him to go to the facility and talk to these kids, but he said he wasn't sure if he would be able to, because of the confidentiality of Division for Youth residents.

In December, in the meantime I had moved to Albany, William Whidholm said, "Will you come in early? We want to talk to you about these kids. I said, "Thank God I want to get this straightened out." Then something happened and the appointment got canceled. Whidholm called and said he couldn't make it in early.

So December 15th, I had called in sick. I had a stomach virus with a fever, vomiting and then nausea, and Whidholm called me at 6:05. He said, "Kathy, I need to have you come down to talk about these kids." I said that I really wasn't well at all and it was an hours drive, but he said that it really was imperative. "We have to get you down here today." So I said, "Okay."

I came down and was greeted by George Schweigart from the Rhinebeck state police barracks, and he arrested me in front of my coworkers on four counts of sexual abuse. Whidholm had called me down there like leading a lamb to slaughter to have me arrested and humiliated in front of my coworkers. I was stunned. I couldn't believe it. I told the trooper I would have come down to the police station, but he had to do it in front of everybody? I just couldn't believe it. I had never been arrested in my life. All I did was cry.

The trooper was actually very kind. I told him about this set up and the fact that I was a whistle blower. He took me to the police station and booked me. My supervisor, Akmeer Kahiem, a senior Youth Division counselor there now, and Juanita Cinclini drove down to the trooper station-about five miles away from the facility-to pick me up. It was snowing and I had slippers on because I wasn't feeling good. My hair was a mess and I had to sit out in the snow to wait for them

to come and get me.

I called my pastor and I said, "I can't believe this! I don't even know what's going on." My minister said, "I knew they would do this to you Mary Katherine. It was either that or they were going to plant drugs on you."

I had told my pastor each and every day what was going on at that facility and that I was running into dead ends every time. I tried to talk to somebody about what was happening. I just wanted one less kid to be hurt. That's all I wanted.

So here I was arrested for sexual abuse, the worst thing in the world that anybody could ever be arrested for-and we're not talking about toddlers. We're talking about juvenile delinquents, 13 and 14 years old.

When I got back to the facility, I got out of the van and Mr. Whidholm goes, "Kathy, here." He hands me something and says, "Now you're suspended without pay." I said, "Thank you. Happy holidays to you, too," and I got back in the car. I was blinded by tears, but I drove an hour to get home and sat in the house and cried. I couldn't believe that I had been arrested for sexual abuse! I hadn't gotten any papers of anything. I didn't know what was going on.

So you're off the payroll now?

I'm off the payroll and I appeared in court a few weeks later. I didn't even know who my accusers were until a few weeks later when I went to Red Hook town court and received a statement, and I saw that it was three kids. Two of them were two of the most problematic kids on the Country Crib Unit, kids that had a history of lying about staff, and the one wasn't such a bad kid. But in the statement, only one kid said that I had touched three kids' penises. Nowhere in the statements do the other two kids say I touched them. Yet I was arrested for touching three kids' penises in the recreation hall of the Eddie Parker Center. How can you arrest me when only one kid says it, and when you talk to the other two kids, they don't say it.

What happened when you went to court?

They kept adjourning and adjourning, and finally, because of the publicity, the Dutchess County district attorney, William Grady, said that it would have to be sent to a grand jury, which is quite unusual for misdemeanors. So I got a public defender, knowing I'd be financially drained, George Hazel, who is one of the finest human beings I've ever met in my life. The prosecuting attorney, Majorie Smith, turned out to be a wonderful professional woman.

I appeared before the grand jury on two occasions and told them some of the things I'd seen at the Eddie Parker Center, and expressing my beliefs on why they'd done this to me. And I was cleared, given a no true bill, but not until months later!

The reason it took so long is because administrators from the Division for Youth lied to the grand jury saying, "We're conducting an investigation on our own, and we'll let you know the results." Therefore, the grand jury felt it was not necessary for them to conduct a full investigation of the Eddie Parker Center. I know that it took them months to render a no true bill because they thought the Division for Youth was investigating my allegations! The Division for Youth lied to the grand jury and the foreperson- Edward Mealia said, "They told us they were investigating and we were waiting for the results. That's why it took us so long to clear her. We wish she would get redress. We wanted to investigate those people who got her arrested, but they told us they were doing an investigation."

But they were not. When a reporter contacted the Division for Youth they said, "No, we didn't do one." My lawyer said that all attempts to investigate were thwarted by the Division for Youth, that they made witnesses unavailable to the grand jury. It's just unbelievable what they got away with!

I was finally cleared in November, 1988, almost 11 months after my arrest. They knew in June of 1988 that I was innocent, right after I testified and they talked to the residents, but they waited that long to send me the no true bill because of the supposed investigation being conducted by the Division for Youth, the investigation that never took place.

In the meantime, I'm suspended without pay, and I had to use two union attorneys. Thomas Mahar was my first appointed union attorney. He was from Poughkeepsie, but because of the hostility of my coworkers and other circumstances surrounding the Eddie Parker Center and the difficulty of having the notice of discipline hearing-what they call what you go through when you're suspended without pay-we felt it was better to have it in Albany, near my home and away from that facility. So Mr. Mahar eventually resigned from the case because it was such a long drive for him. My second attorney was Mr. Richard Wendling.

My first arbitration hearing, and I believe it's the first I've ever heard of like this, was four months after my suspension. State law now, as of 1988, requires that you have a hearing within 30 days. I went through two arbitrators. The first I never met. She had an illness in the family and had to resign before we even had a hearing. The second, Mrs. Sheila Cole was so busy that she couldn't see me for four months after my suspension.

So, in the meantime, I had no money in April. I had applied for welfare benefits in May. I was in danger of losing my home and my car at that time. I had received an eviction notice on March, 3rd, 1988, so I took two signs and my friend's dog and I protested in front of the Division for Youth headquarters at 84 Holland Avenue. That's how livid I was. That's how hard I was pushed into making known this atrocity, this administrative disaster known as the Eddie Parker Center. My sign said: "This is the decade of the child Governor Cuomo, why don't you care? I'm about to become a homeless person because I'm a whistle blower."

Are you still on leave without pay?

I'm still suspended. It's been 19 months. It's the second longest case in New York history.

In the meantime, from right after my arrest, I don't remember anything that happened to me in January and February of 1988. I was being treated for major depression. I was an emotional Zombie. I just couldn't function, so I was placed on heavy medication.

I was called into an interrogation by the Division for

"This is the decade of the child Governor Cuomo, why don't you care? I'm about to become a homeless person because I'm a whistle blower."

Youth in January, led to believe it was to discuss my allegations against the Eddie Parker Center, only to be questioned about another resident who saw me on TV after I was arrested and claimed I had intercourse with him. They interrogated me about this for an hour, and I said, What! What is this about? Is this kid named? "

They wanted to know how I knew, who had told me, because it was classified and they were going to get the people who told me. I said I didn't remember who it was and I would never tell them because they would harass them like they had me. So I was subsequently charged with insubordination and they recommended that I get fired for not answering the questions, when in reality I could not remember who the person was (who told me), because I was so heavily medicated.

Those are just some of the charges against me. They kept lodging more charges against me after my arrest. I'm going through my arbitration hearings, each one lasting about six hours, and I had 12 of them. We could have gone on for two years, since we had so many witnesses. The state witnesses were really a credit to us, because they were not only not credible, they basically substantiated most of my allegations.

My last notice of discipline hearing was March 9, 1989. My arbitrator said to Toni Coweek, the Division for Youth lawyer, to have legal briefs done up and sent to her by March 31st, and she assured us at that March 9th hearing that she would render her decision May 15th, and she has not rendered her decision yet.

So that's the way things stand now.

I'm still suspended without pay. In the meantime, I have to let you know that I went to the legislative office building in Albany and petitioned my legislators and got them involved with this case, so we have Senator Christopher Mega, the head of the Crime and Corrections Committee who is conducting an investigation regarding the Eddie Parker Center. They're doing a report on it. Rich Olsen, his executive assistant,

I stay in contact with routinely. Senator Israel Ruiz, Senator Jay Rollison, Assemblyman Glen Warren and Senator Mega all went to the Eddie Parker Center because of me and of course they saw what the Eddie Parker Center wanted them to see. They saw well-groomed little kids having a wonderful day. But they did go down there, so we have gotten the interest of the legislators. Ned Regan's Office (State Comptroller's Office) has blasted the Division for Youth for gross incompetence

So what do you think the final result will be?

I'm going to be cleared. The Division for Youth will have to answer questions about how this could happen to Kathie Erickson. The saddest part of this whole story is that an investigation was never requested by the director, Leonard Dunston until November 1988, because three residents at the Eddie Parker Center were arrested for sodomizing a fourth, and that the director of the Northern Dutchess Hospital, Michael Mazzerella said that there have been 12 sodomy incidents reported to the hospital from the Eddie Parker Center, and it was apparent that the Eddie Parker Center was keeping all of this hush hush.

What will happen after you're exonerated? Will you be reinstated?

I will be reinstated, I will get my back pay and there are already rumors at the Eddie Parker Center that I'm coming back. I've heard that time and time again. My coworkers know I never touched those kids.

Will you go back?

That remains to be seen. It's like the lion waiting for Daniel. I will blink three times and get a memo for not blinking twice like everybody else did. I am certain that the Eddie Parker Center is wringing its hands, drooling at the mouth waiting for Kathie Erickson to come back.

So what will you do?

I will try to repair some of the financial damage that has been done. I'll definitely try to get my life back on track. They have assassinated my character. They have emotionally destroyed me and I'll never be the same.

What are you doing now?

I volunteered with Whiskers in Albany for awhile. I am now involved with a network of animal lovers in the Woodstock area saving strays and finding homes for them and neglected dogs and cats. I am cleaning houses part-time in the mornings to make ends meet, and I am just living hand to mouth. I am also preparing to continue my struggle against the Division for Youth. It is clearly a system that does not work. You have so many homeless people on

the street, yet this is a state that deems it necessary to spend \$70,000 a year to house juvenile delinquents that will continually be in the system. I think that is an outrage, and I think the tax payers have to address this.

The Eddie Parker Center is a very sad story. I just happened to be part of it. I could go on and on about the atrocities and cover-ups I've seen there. The New York State Inspector General's Office is now doing an investigation, two years after my letter, but the part that nobody realizes is that Leonard Dunston, the director and his people have made sure that everybody is too darnn frightened to talk now. My witnesses that I wrote about to the Inspector General's Office were never contacted, and when they claimed to have done an investigation. How could they investigate my allegations when they never spoke to the people on the list I gave them. Now they can try as they may, but those people won't talk because they are scared to death of the repercussions that I've suffered.

Since my arrest, 17 administrative positions have either been changed or moved around. The Division won't say if it has anything to do with me.

Sure, I'll be cleared. I've done nothing wrong, but the fact remains that I've been arrested for sexual abuse and I've lost everything that I ever worked for financially. I lived on cream of wheat for 10 days until my church found out about it.

L.M. Samualis is a life long resident of Albany.

Editor's Note:

Kathie Erickson was cleared on charges of sex abuse shortly after this interview took place. Due to the continuing problems regarding this case, and her desire to tell her story, we decided to run this story in its entirety.

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Orchard Park: State Agency Leaves Bad Taste

by Jeff Skelding

What happens when government agencies, responsible for developing, implementing, and enforcing policies, are faced with violations of those policies by other government agencies? Citizens in the Town of New Scotland have been forced to grapple with this question since they first discovered contamination in nearby groundwater.

Residents of the Orchard Park subdivision near routes 155 and 85A utilize individual wells tapped into a deep aquifer for drinking water service. Certain wells contain high levels of contaminants including sulfur, sodium, bacteria, chloride, and iron. Most of these substances are naturally occurring due to specific geologic features of the area. In addition, geological release of methane gas enters groundwater which is pumped to the household. When released to the air this gas is highly explosive. In Orchard Park, there has been an incident where a spark from a lawn care tool ignited a well-head, resulting in a 30 foot high plume of flames. In 1987, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) ruled out individual water treatment devices as a solution and recommended that impacted wells be capped and abandoned due to high levels of chlorides and the explosive nature of methane gas. DEC also recommended that the community connect to a public water supply system.

In an effort to secure a safe source of drinking water, the community looked to a nearby shallow aquifer which DEC studies indicated was not in contact with the deep aquifer. Water quality test indicated that this aquifer was also contaminated, primarily with high levels of sodium and chloride. The presence of a nearby road salt storage facility operated by the State Department of Transportation (DOT) led to speculation that runoff from this source might be the culprit. In February, the DEC completed a study which indicates that the DOT facility is the "principle source" of contamination in the shallow aquifer.

DOT agrees that they are the source of the problem but argues that the yield of the shallow aquifer is not adequate to sustain a public water supply district. However, a number of homes in the area have been served by the shallow aquifer for over twenty years and in 1987 the DEC field staff, during the course of their study, recommended its' availability as a clean and plentiful alternative drinking water source for homeowners with polluted wells. In any event, the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) specifically classifies the best use of ALL fresh groundwater in the state as a "source of potable water supply" regardless of whether it provides

adequate yield or not. The law also established standards for certain pollutants. Water quality regulations under the ECL set a maximum allowable contamination level for chloride in groundwater at 250 mg/l (parts per million). Chloride levels in some sections of the shallow aquifer at the salt yard exceed 2000 parts per million, a clear violation of that standard and the law.

DEC is now in the position of enforcing a violation of the ECL upon a sister governmental agency. However, in a reversal of their original position that the upper aquifer is a viable alternative water supply source, they now corroborate DOT's explanation about the questionable yield of the shallow aquifer and evidently use this reasoning to imply that there may be limitations on their enforcement abilities. A letter from the DEC Regional Director to the Town of New Scotland Supervisor states that because the natural flushing (cleansing) of the aquifer system cannot be improved upon, "remediation, therefore, takes the form of remuneration towards alternative supplies or treatment at point of usage (an option which DEC has previously denounced as unworkable). At Orchard Park, the lower aquifer which is used by residents is not impaired by the DOT salt pile. Therefore, we don't have a direct impairment of usage by DOT." The letter goes on to explain, "However, the DOT salt pile does affect a portion of the upper aquifer, and so, to some extent, options for some homeowners are precluded. This choice of alternatives for use of the upper aquifer in Orchard Park, even in the absence of salt

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contamination, would be quite limited because of questionable yield." An explanation is given on the difficulty in "defining the extent to which certain individual homeowners may be precluded from choosing an alternative water supply," and offers the services of DEC staff in further discussions with interested parties. The argument that questionable yield in the shallow aquifer, and a lack of direct impairment at the point of usage in the deeper aquifer limits DEC's enforcement powers, is flawed. Regardless to what extent a homeowner may be precluded from choosing an alternative water supply, a water quality violation has occurred and DEC should be doing more than simply offering their services, they should be aggressively pursuing remediation and compensation to impacted homeowners.

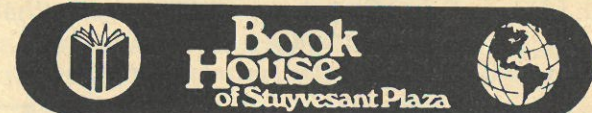
Although the shallow aquifer at the salt yard is not considered a hazardous waste site, it may be useful to compare that DEC procedure with the one used at Orchard Park. In terms of funding clean-up at toxic sites, DEC first attempts to identify a "potentially Responsible Party (PRP)." Once this has been accomplished, DEC then negotiates an agreement on the terms of the remediation with the PRP. At Orchard Park, the "PRP" has been identified. However, in the four months since this information has been documented, DEC has yet to use any kind of aggressive enforcement measures to ensure compensation to impacted residents. In the words of Anthony Mistretta, a member of the local civic association, "This is not a small matter. The Department of Transportation is polluting a major water source in the Town of New Scotland and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has stood by timidly without taking any enforcement action. If the polluter were a private business, Encon would be down their throats." Further, by indicating the situation is a legal issue which must be determined in the courts, DOT has invited a lawsuit upon themselves as the only means by which citizens could be compensated. This cavalier attitude seems to suggest a lack of concern on DOT's part in terms of the potential penalties DEC could impose upon them and a lack of respect for DEC's environmental authority.

This hesitance on the part of DEC was further illustrated at the meeting attended by New Scotland town officials, Albany County Health Department, DEC Regional Director and engineer, and DOT Regional Director. The meeting was a result of further water quality testing done by the Albany County health department at homes north of the salt yard. Of the 11 tests done for chloride, 8 of them showed up positive, indicating a plume of chloride contamination. Although the additional testing performed by Albany County Health Department does not prove that the plume from the salt yard and the plume to the north are one in the same, no one, except perhaps DOT, believes otherwise. The town officials, anxious to resolve the problem, offered services and partial funding if DOT would agree to develop a public water supply district. The DOT

Regional Director again raised the issue of questionable yield in the shallow aquifer and stated the he had not yet received detailed data on the new testing results. Plans were made to do further testing and meet again in September. While town officials took the hard line, DEC remained passive, as if their perceived role was mediator and not the top environmental enforcement agency of the State. Unfortunately this is a familiar scenario, as many observers of DEC actions can attest.

Two years after the DEC issued its recommendation to cap and abandon wells at Orchard Park no steps have been taken to remediate the well problem. The situation has attracted the attention of no less than 10 government agencies, yet Orchard Park residents continue to struggle with the hardships associated with contaminated drinking water. As environmental problems continue to multiply, the DEC will be forced to streamline the process by which they address violations including quick response and enforcement. Their role is to develop and strictly enforce policies which protect the health and natural resources of our state. It is not to selectively choose projects and arbitrarily apply varying degrees of enforcement muscle. Although it's true that each violation of an environmental law has its own particular circumstances, it is still a violation which calls for swift and consistent action regardless of the perpetrator.

As a government agency, DOT is accountable to the people of New York. They are also obligated to live by the laws of the state. By delaying action at Orchard Park, DOT exacerbates an environmental problem and its impacts on area residents.



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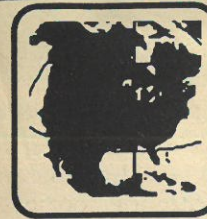
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Homework

by Monica G. Finch

I have had the extreme good fortune to have two life circumstances from which I have learned a great deal. These situations have provided me with a unique and privileged vantage point which has yielded special insights. Specifically, I have a twin brother and a handicapped mother.

My brother, our younger sister, and I, all grew up in a non-gender specific household decades before such terminology or concepts even existed. Consequently, my siblings and I learned life skills which are out of the context of traditional male/female confines. Our parents were not mindful of gender when it came to their offspring performing household chores and duties.

Whenever we whined that such-and-such was a boy's or girl's task, our protests fell on deaf ears. Invariably, the response was, "There's only work that has to be done." Therefore, if I was around when the lawn needed mowing or the garbage needed to be taken out, I did it. My father also taught his daughters a lot about automotive preventive maintenance and basic tire-changing so we would never have to sit along a highway somewhere, at our peril, waiting for some stranger to stop and "help" us. Our practical education was just a matter of common sense life skills and our parents' desire to have us be as self-reliant as possible.

Likewise, my brother learned a great deal from our mother and is very functional and capable around the house. When his wife is out of town on a business trip, he doesn't have to camp out at his in-laws or back home with our parents. He can cook for himself and assume total care of their toddler daughter, do the laundry (confidently separating loads!), and do a sterling job of ironing a shirt. He is no "helpless male" in a domestic environment.

In retrospect, this early training was remarkably ahead of its time. We all profited greatly from our experiences growing up in such a home. It taught us a very basic but subtle lesson: knowledge is freedom, even the most humble and mundane skills, nevertheless, increase an individual's ability to get on in life and be independent. Therefore, being constrained by the limitations of traditional gender roles just hobbles the individual, making him/her artificially handicapped and vulnerable because of deficiencies in basic survival skills.

I remember a friend of my mother's whose benighted husband refused to allow his wife to teach their three sons any basic domestic skills. He didn't want his boys doing "women's work." Evidently he considered knowledge of domestic skills "unmanly" in a male. They

couldn't even make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without written instructions. When the mother was hospitalized for surgery, we all marveled they survived on their own and worried about her potential relapse upon returning home to a house, in God knew, what condition. It was easy to visualize a week's worth of piled-up dishes, mounds of fulsome laundry, and stampedes of dustbunnies (a scene reminiscent of the "Tribbles" episode on StarTrek!). Despite the fact that this man and his sons worked together restoring antique cars for a hobby, we were quite sure that household appliances remained alien machines to them.

I began to realize early on that stereotypical gender roles deny each individual his/her fullest potential, condemning each individual to live only a partial life because of societal expectations and strictures. I began to think of things in terms of loss: the unfulfilled artistic gifts, the undiscovered cures and advancements, the unshared contributions and improvements. I couldn't understand why common sense pragmatism doesn't prevail: just let people do what they do best; nurture glimmers of talent and aptitude when they are first evident; provide opportunities for development and growth; allow each person to make a contribution. Society has to make fuller use of all its human resources no matter what "package" they come in. It seems absurdly wasteful to withhold from the common good a person's potential contribution because it doesn't fall within certain narrow guidelines and proscriptions. Time has come to realize that the human race is endangered and needs to marshal all its reserves to survive. We do not have time to quibble about the propriety or appropriateness of a person's field of endeavor according to gender. We are threatened by our own short-sightedness and the artificial barriers we have erected which only serve to restrict and frustrate the individual, and ultimately, deny humankind in general untold benefits and enhancements.

My mother's handicap, too, was very edifying for us long before such awareness was in vogue. I used to study people and watch their reactions and interaction with "the lady in the wheelchair." It was always fascinating to see how an able-bodied person would treat a handicapped individual. Sometimes all they would do is stare, others would shout in conversation as if my mother were deaf (assuming, I guess, that since her legs didn't work, none of her other faculties did either). Others would speak slowly and deliberately to her as if she were developmentally disabled. And then there were those gracious, polite, cordial people who didn't see any reason to treat her differently just because she was seated in a wheelchair.

I marveled, as I still do, how my mother negotiated each encounter with grace, charm, wit, and dignity. Sometimes I didn't know how she tolerated the bores, but she always manages to rise above the situation due to her inordinate reserve of patience and tolerance.

Children were the most honest about their curiosity and reactions. While out shopping, they would sometimes come along side her and ask why she was in "that chair" and she would patiently explain that her legs didn't work. That was simple and direct for them and satisfied their natural inquisitiveness. Sometimes they would try to hitch a ride on her footsteps (like we used to when we were their age!). A mortified mother would quickly run and retrieve her child, apologizing abjectly. My mother would just smile and tell them "No problem" in an easy natural tone.

The most important thing my mother taught us by the example of how she's lived her life is that you can never judge another person by their physical appearance. Everyone, even the least likely individual has a special skill, talent, or gift which YOU don't have. There have been innumerable times she's been proven right and her words reverberated in my memory. The handicapped, besides possessing the special gifts necessary to live with a disability, are no different from any other human being. They have the same needs and desires as anyone. Most of the time, their biggest obstacles are the attitudes and prejudices of the able-bodied world in which they have to live.

Her words ring particularly true in regard to persons such as Stephen Hawking, the British astrophysicist who, afflicted with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ("Lou Gehrig's disease") is world-renowned in his field. Despite his increasing disability (indeed, his doctor's predicted he'd be dead ten years ago), he possesses a brain which is ticking away, formulating a unifying theory of the universe. His colleagues say his mind rivals that of Einstein's. And his sense of humor is still evident despite everything: since his deepening paralysis has taken away his ability to speak, Hawking now uses a computerized voice synthesizer. This Englishman is very happy with the device except it gives him an American accent! Look also at Christopher Nolan, a young Irishman who's received many literary awards for his poetry and his autobiography despite the fact that he is a "spastic," a victim of muscular dystrophy or some type of degenerative neurological disorder. He is totally paralyzed and mute. By use of a mouth stick, Nolan painstakingly pecks out letters on a keyboard. Reading his autobiography certainly puts things into perspective, especially for an able-bodied individual who thinks (s)he's having a "bad day." It surely is a humbling and illuminating experience.

And so from these two unique and even advantageous perspectives, I have gleaned a great deal of valuable truth, and hopefully, have developed a degree of compassion and tolerance otherwise not possible.

Since my mother never acquiesced to her disability, there isn't even any physical evidence that a handicapped person resides in her house. For example, all the kitchen appliances are at standard height and even the wall phone is where it should be. Her indefatigable spirit has demonstrated to us and everyone who knows her that each individual must do as much as his capabilities will allow. And most importantly, we must never take our able-bodiedness for granted.

We foolishly place limitations on ourselves and others by artificial barriers and debilitating stereotypes. We tend to look at someone and mentally evaluate him/her. Too many times, there is so much more to a person than what meets the eye or fits conveniently into a neat pigeon hole. Whether the stumbling block is gender or disability or any other designation we hang on people, we have to develop more enlightened attitudes and a more realistic value system which looks for what a person can do rather than prejudging what he/she can't do. We cannot blithely dismiss people who don't appear "capable" by our standards. Instead of expecting failure, we have to encourage success, even in the most humble endeavors.

Each individual has to be allowed to live up to his/her fullest potential whether it's ironing a shirt or formulating a unifying theory of the universe. He/she must be allowed the dignity of independence, the challenge to grow, and contribute the best he/she is able to give back to the world.

Monica Finch is a free lance writer from Schenectady.



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In Celebration of Our Right to Vote

by Margo Berch Matzdorf

At the end of this month we commemorate the anniversary of Women's Equality Day -- on August 26, 1920 the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified giving women the right to vote. It was an arduous fight for woman's suffrage - but the question remains, are we really exercising this right we fought so hard for? What good is this right if you don't use it?

Of course, statistics indicate that it isn't just women who aren't voting, but American men and women generally - voting here in the land of the free is low compared to most countries around the world. It's a strange phenomenon if you consider that around the globe people of many nationalities risk their lives fighting for democratic elections, and under some situations they exercise their vote only at great personal risk to themselves or their families.

Women can make a difference by their votes and we have. Most of us have read about the "gender gap" so we know that women can swing votes on issues they care about. And these issues have made the difference in many elections. One shining example of this is Nita Lowey's 1988 triumphant victory over an incumbent Congressman in Westchester County - made possible because pro-choice voters (of both sexes) went to the polls on Election Day and voted for Nita.

The Supreme Court in the Webster case has ruled that states (state legislatures) can regulate/restrict abortion in certain instances. So the right of a woman to decide about abortion has become an election issue now more than ever before. Clearly, we must find out where our state officials stand on this issue and, if they don't stand with us on the right to choice and won't be persuaded, then we will have to vote them out of office. (Note: This goes for candidates/incumbents on the local level as well - city, town and county elected officials often run for higher state and national posts later on in their political careers.)

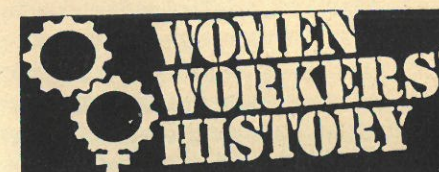
Sounds simple, but when I think about low voter turnout here in the Empire State (due to apathy or lack of desirable candidates?), I have to question the effectiveness of this strategy. I hope that women (and men) will get out to the polls on primary day and on election day and vote for candidates who are supportive of women and women's concerns, especially those who are pro-choice.

Otherwise the struggle of the suffragists will truly have been in vain.

On a related note, there are two local celebrations of Women's Equality Day on Saturday, August 26, 1989. From 10 - 12 pm there will be a "Women Make History Breakfast Walk" organized by the Women's Building. This is an updated version of last year's self-guided tour of Albany; for information call 465-1597. From 11 - 1 pm there will be a

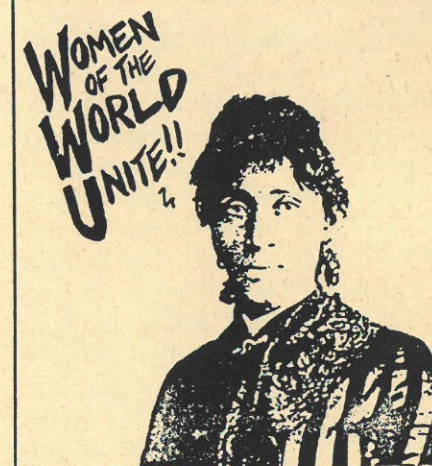
champagne brunch cruise on the Hudson River. This is a fundraiser for candidates endorsed by the Capital District Women's Political Caucus; for information call 283-8416.

Margo Berch Matzdorf is Chairperson of the Capital District Women's Political Caucus, the local affiliate of the National Women's Political Caucus.



Chapter 28 The Working Women's Union

At the close of the 1870s depression, radical working women and housewives organized the Working Women's Union in hopes of convincing the women of Chicago to organize. United action, they said, could overcome appalling working and living conditions. Although the times were not right for organizing women wage earners, they were able to build an organization of some thousand women.



Leaders of the Working Women's Union were Alzina Stevens, who lost a finger at age 13 in a Lowell, Mass. textile mill; Lizzie Swank, an Ohio farm girl-turned-teacher at 15 who worked in Chicago's garment shops; Elizabeth Rodgers, who had organized "socialistic groups" in the Rocky Mountain states; and Lucy Parsons, a brilliant speaker who left her native Texas because of laws banning racially-mixed marriages and the post-Reconstruction terror.

While organizing women around shop issues, the Working Women's Union also took part in labor struggles like the campaign for the eight-hour day. The WWU entered a pink float in the 1879 July Fourth parade sponsored by the Chicago Eight-Hour League. By 1881 the Working Women's Union had become women's assembly of a new national labor organization, the Knights of Labor.

COMMON GOOD



At the Movies...

by Matt Hough

THE DARK SIDE OF HEROES

Movies like "Batman" have a built-in immune system from the comments of critics. When people are assaulted with as much hype as this picture has had, one person's opinion is not going to change anyone's mind about going to see it. In my case, I have mostly nice things to say about the movie, though I also fear that most people are in for a slight letdown. "Batman" isn't so much a disappointment as it is an anticlimax to all the hyperbole that has gone before. Furthermore, those expecting to find a masked James Bond or an Indiana Jones in a cape and tights are themselves hanging from the wrong tree.

Basically the film is an unsettling and serious tour of a melancholy comic book land. Innocent citizens are openly attacked in dark, crime ridden Gotham City, the city fathers seem powerless to stop the vice, and even the crooks are mistrustful of one another (and with good reason). Suddenly there appears on the scene a solemn masked man who begins delivering a rough message to the criminal element of Gotham. His name is Batman, and his job is to put the bad guys out of business permanently.

Unlike the opening hour of Richard Donner's "Superman" which told us the Man of Steel's origins in fairly tedious detail, screenwriter Sam Hamm doesn't waste much screen time in providing similar information about the Caped Crusader's beginnings. We are given only sporadic bits of knowledge. Hopefully more data will be offered in the future as the inevitable sequels are produced. It's safe to say, though, that being a more or less ordinary man, Batman is much more fascinating than his super friend and deserves a thorough biography.

Much of this film's 126 minute running time, however, deals not with Batman and his alter ego, eccentric and lonely millionaire Bruce Wayne, but with his insane adversary Jack Napier, later known as the Joker. The film spends at least its first hour setting up the antagonistic relationship that comes to exist between the Joker and Batman. These scenes wouldn't be all that engaging were it not for the actor chosen to play Napier, another jack of all trades, Jack Nicholson.

Nicholson is the best reason for rushing out to see "Batman." Every scene in which he appears gets a buzz from his outrageous playing. His cawing, chortling, joy-faced but maniacal killer leaves even his over-the-top performances in "Goin' South," "The Shining," and "The Witches of Eastwick" in the dust. His Joker is a lit firecracker constantly crackling and exploding in this movie, and there is little wonder director Tim Burton lets him sizzle. He easily dwarfs everyone around him.

Michael Keaton acquits himself acceptably in the title role, but he doesn't get enough chances to explore fully either of his personas. Thus, we're left with two characters more mysterious than they were obviously intended to be. Both his quick personal involvement with Vicki Vale (Kim Basinger in a spotty performance of both grace and awkwardness) and his dependence on his butler Alfred (Michael Gough) need a more thorough examination than they are given in this first film.

A couple of other players make highly favorable impressions even with Nicholson's scene stealing. If the film has a find, it's Robert Wuhl as ace reporter Alexander Knox. Wuhl is down to earth, sensible, and altogether winning, serving as our anchor amid the surrounding weirdness. Jack Palance as the king of crime that Nicholson must eliminate also perks in his few brief moments in the spotlight.

The film's art and set direction, though, is matchless. Many of the interior sets are elaborately designed in rich mahogonies and Deco motifs. The Bat Cave is appropriately creepy and dismal (though we don't get to see enough of it).

We have a Gotham City inspired by Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner," a forlorn, forboding place where evil seems to thrive. Effective as the melancholia is, the murkiness of these settings, though, does intrude occasionally. Several of the climactic stunts as Batman battles henchmen of the Joker are hard to make out clearly in the low lighting.

"Batman" isn't all that it could have been. It has slow spots, some unnecessary profanity, and a less than awesome story to tell. But it makes up for these lapses with occasional directorial flair, a truly zippy villain, and the promise of superior things to come in its next time at bat.

[On a four star scale, "Batman" would rate three stars.]



Matt Hough has been reviewing movies in various media since 1968. For 11 years, he was the film writer for the Tri-County Syndicate of South Carolina. His film reviews have also appeared in, among other publications, The Dallas Sun, the Music Gazette, BoxOffice, The Millionaire, and Q-Notes. He is now HARDCOPY's film reviewer and industry analyst.



September is Veteran's Month in Troy

by Dave Millard

After months of intricate planning and dedicated work by the Rensselaer County Vietnam Memorial Committee, the fruits of their labors are about to be recognized in two events of major proportions in September.

Many of you may remember the September 18th "Free" concert produced by the RCVMC last year. The concert was such a critical and financial success, that even as we tore down the stage graphics, we were planning for "Jam for Nam II." An estimated 15,000 people attended the event during the day and proceeds gave the RCVMC treasury its first real boost. RCVMC Vice-President Robert "Gus" Naimo almost singlehandedly facilitated the "88" jam, but this year under his direction a number of supporters have surfaced to make Jam For Nam II an even greater success. The concert will be in RiverFront park in Troy on 23 September, 1989 from noon till dusk. This year the music from 8 live bands will be complimented by the addition of activities, games, great food, and prizes throughout the day.

According to "Gus" Naimo, the committee is hoping for an attendance in excess of 20,000 for this year's event and from what I can see from what is planned for this event this year he may be reining it back! The bands and activities are top

shelf entertainment, and there is something for everyone in the cards!

September's next big event will come into town on September 9th and 10th with the arrival of the cast and producers of CBS's hit television series Tour of Duty to help RCVMC raise awareness and funds for the memorial effort. There will be a public reception fundraiser held at the Desmond Americana in Albany from 2 PM to 5 PM on the 9th for fans and friends to meet and greet the stars. The tickets are available from the County Veterans Service Agency are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years of age. On Sunday morning the 10th, the cast and crew will join with RCVMC members in the Uncle Sam Day parade with the assistance of the New York National Guard providing transportation.

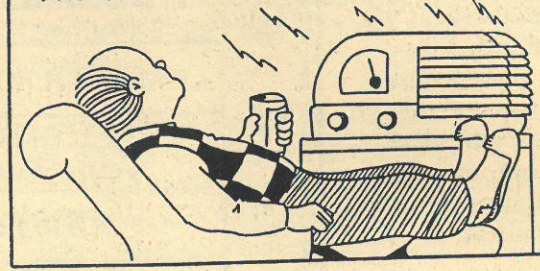
Last but not least, the memorial committee will be at the Schaghticoke fair during its entire run. The committee members are looking forward to seeing you at any one, or all of these events. Join with them as they honor the warriors, not the war. See you there.

THE SENIOR CLASS by wheeler

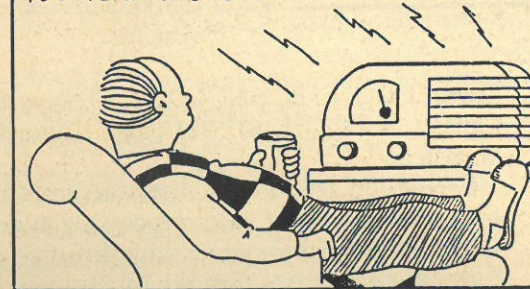
NOW FOR THE SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS. 90 YEAR OLD MAN CLIMBS MT. EVEREST ALONE.



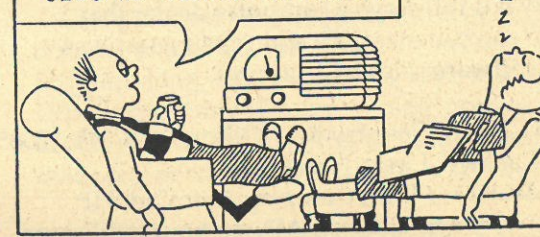
85 YEAR OLD WOMAN SWIMS ENGLISH CHANNEL BACKWARDS

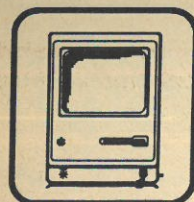


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Computer Resource Directory

Compiled by Don Rittner

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Imperatives designs and installs cost effective computer graphic solutions in addition to providing computer graphic/imaging software training and education.

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CMA CONSULTING SERVICES, 14 Wade Rd., Latham, NY 12110. 518 783 9003.

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Computer user groups (thanks to Art Small for this list)**Capital Area Microcomputer Society**

Meets Second Wed 7 PM Draper Hall Rm 313, Rockefeller College. 135 Western Ave., Albany Contact: Brien Muller 584-1371 (evening) 438-0010 (day)

Enable Users Group

Meets 1 St Thu. Place varies
Contact Kathy Johnson 383-4240

IX (UNIX) Users Group

Meets Third Wed 7:30 PM
Contact Bill Davidson 372-1923 (H) 387-6489 (W)

CADbLUG (D base users group)

Meets 4 Th Wed 7 PM
Contact Dick Rhindress 1-733-5675

Capital Area PC Users Group

Meets 4 Th Thu 7 PM Burnt Hills Community Library
Contact Harry Adams 885-5794 (H) 395-4142 (W)

Guilderand Apple Byters

Meets 1 St Wed 7 PM Farnsworth Middle School, Guilderland
Contact Andrea Ricard 482-2609 or George Johnsen 861-8315

C.D.A.C.E. Capital District Atari Computer Enthusiasts

Atari 8-bit 3 Rd Tue
Atari ST Last Tue
Spectre 128 (MAC SIG) 2 Nd Tue
Meets Computer Cellar Westgate Shopping Center 482-1462

C.D.A.U.G. Capital District Amiga Users Group

Meets Computer Cellar 6:30 PM Westgate Shopping Center
Contact Lou Matrazzo 370-3316

MECCA (Macintosh Enthusiasts Club of the Capital Area)

Meets 2 nd Mon at RPI
Contact Don Rittner 374-1088

Union College IBM Users Group

Meets Union College Schenectady Dates determined each academic term.
Contact Susan Brienza 370-6293

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Number is parenthesis is baud rate, other is number of hours available (i.e. 24 hours a day)
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NUMBER NAME, BAUD, HOURS

ALBANY

456-9088 518 CONNECT (3, 12, 24) 7PM-7AM
479-7948 CALLAHAN'S SALOON (3, 12, 24) 24
283-4067 ESN NEWS/CAPITOL (12, 24) 24
489-5654 EXPLORERS (3, 12, 24) 24
482-2406 PYROTO MOUNTAIN (3, 12) 9PM-9AM
442-5755 NYS PAP (3, 12, 24) 24
436-0581 MINAS MORGUL (3, 12) 11PM-8AM
442-5738 ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE (3, 12) 24
438-8986 LASER (3, 12, 24) 8:30PM-11:30AM
442-5739 ROCKEFELLER COLLEGE (3, 12) 24
489-2615 SNAKE PIT (3, 12, 24) 24
475-1446 SOCCER BASE (3, 12) 24
489-7085 WIZARD'S DOMAIN (3, 12, 24) 24
438-2176 WIZARD'S WORKSHOP (3, 12, 24) 5PM-10AM
489-1618 THRASHER (3, 12) 24
432-1162 X-CALIBER (3, 12) 2PM-8AM
472-1419 HIGH FLIGHT (3, 12) 24
432-5745 INFOTECH (3, 12, 24) 24
456-3005 MATRIX OS-9 (3, 12) 24
381-4430 MECCA (3, 12, 24) 24
489-1774 HUNTERS LODGE (3) 7PM-NOON

BALLSTON SPA

885-6619 KEN'S BEDROOM (3, 12) 10PM-11:30PM
885-6471 ONLY WHEN I'M BORED (3, 12) 6AM-4PM

BALLSTON LAKE

877-6316 ENABLE BBS (3, 12, 24) 10AM-8AM

BURNT HILLS

399-4111 JR COMM (12, 24) 24

CASTLETON

732-2216 PEOPLE'S NETWORK (3, 12) 24

CASTSKILL

943-7027 TASSLEHOFF'S POUCH (3, 12) 6PM-6AM

CHAZY

846-8803 TAVERN (3, 12, 24) 24

COLONIE

456-7762 GREEN PIECE (3, 12) 9:30PM-8AM

DELMAR

439-3191 TITANIC'S SAFE 3 12 24 24

GERMANTOWN

537-4881 TRINITY'S OPEN HOUSE 3 12 24

GLENS FALLS

761-3179 ALIENS IN THE SKY 3 12 24
793-0490 CRITICAL MASS 3 12 24 96 24
761-0869 FINAL FRONTIER 3 12 24 96 24
793-9574 HOST 3 12 24 24

GLENVILLE

377-0888 DRIVE INN 3 12 24 24
393-3094 *THE LINC (NODE 1) 3 12 24
381-9757**THE LINC (NODE 2) 3 12 24 24

GUILDERLAND

452-8404 OSTEOCLAST (3, 12, 24) 24
356-2606 RAINBOW (3, 12, 24) 24

LATHAM

783-6409 ESCAPEWARE (3, 12, 24) 10PM-8AM
783-5762 GAME PALACE (3, 12, 24) 24
785-4189 NIGHT FLIGHT (3, 12, 24) 24
785-6643 PAIN & PLEASURE (3, 12, 24) 24
783-8371 SYSOP SANCTUARY (3, 12, 24) 24

MECHANICVILLE

664-9616 VIDEO MADNESS (3, 12, 24) SP

NASSAU

766-5465 NEW BEGINNING (3, 12, 24) 24

PITTSBURY

663-8315 AMIGA TALK (3, 12) 24

PLATTSBURG

562-2222 CHARLIE (3, 12, 24) 24
561-3155 G.P.C.U.G. (3, 12) 24

RAVENA

756-3002 CHRISTIAN HOTLINE (3, 12, 24) SP
ROTTERDAM

377-0229 WORLD COMPUTER (3, 12, 24, 96) 24

SARATOGA

587-1651 RADIO SHACK (3, 12) 9:30PM-9:30AM
583-2841 SARATOGA HOTLINE (3, 12, 24, 96) 24
583-2193 SARATOGA 99 (3, 12, 24) SP
584-0991 LAND OF THE LOST (3, 12, 24) 24
587-8380 JOVIAN EMPIRE (3, 12) 24

SCHENECTADY

346-2150 ADVENTURERS (3, 12) 9PM-5AM
372-9549 BICYCLING (3, 12, 24) 24
355-1447 CHECKERED FLAG (3, 12) 9PM-7AM
393-6125 COMNET (3, 12) 24
372-0015 DISTORTED PRISM (3, 12) 24
393-8545 DRON'S ARCADE (3, 12, 24) 11PM-5PM
372-2691 FISHLINE (3, 12) SP
371-8439 FONDA EXPRESS (3) 10PM-7AM
355-6430 LIGHTHOUSE (3, 12, 24) 24
393-2467 MICRO-80 (3, 1, 2 24) 6PM-9AM
372-8045 PRISMATIC SPHERE (3, 12) 24
355-1510 STARBASE 41 (3, 12) 24
370-6007 TEACHER (3, 12) 24
374-2170 TRACERS (3, 12, 24) 6PM-9AM
372-8045 PRISMATIC SPHERE (3, 12) 24
355-1510 STARBASE 41 (3, 12) 24
370-6007 TEACHER (3, 12) 24
374-2170 TRACERS (3, 12) 24
381-4430 MECCA (3, 12, 24) 24

SOUTH BETHLEHEM

767-3316 TBE (3, 12) 7PM-9AM

TROY

237-1232 C.D.A.C.E. (3, 12) 24
272-0798 WK-DMS (3, 12) 24
271-8624 GARBAGERIE (3, 12, 24) 24
270-2524 GENTECH (3, 12, 24) 24
273-0189 INSTIGATORS (3, 12) SP
273-1031 LATE NIGHT (3, 12, 24) 24
271-8394 TANTALUS (3, 12) 24

WATERFORD

233-1585 ACCIDENTAL OVERLOAD (3, 12) 8PM-7AM

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274-3237 ALBEDO TELCOM CENTRAL (3, 12, 24) 10PM-8PM

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HARDCOPY WORD PUZZLE #2

Each month, HARDCOPY will offer a word puzzle that deals with topics found in the current issue.

B Y O N T U R E U K C U L J E T E U N R X E W R I
 Q S S U O T R Y O T A S P G S O S A C W E Y F J G
 U I X N Y A I S T W Q T N H A N D I C A P Y P A H
 I K A U P G L N E G K I H L Y M I O E F J Q R C X
 L R Y F E S A U L T W R C I J O P L J O S T O K X
 T N N T F D R H P O E J D B E T O R M F T O C N Z
 F A W I W L O I L F N C F N R E U K U A C O H I K
 G M A E S J G B I M U S U E Y Y R L K D H N O C S
 H P Q U A N E U T G F D F A H O Z I C I Y K I H G
 M S M F S L Q P C P B U I K G I K W C I J Z C O L
 T I X W T A T Y D S M J O G L C W Y Y K I G E L E
 Z G P S U D I U I S I O N O F Y O U T H S I O S N
 D J I L H W O F Q Z K N S B U C R U D T G O G O S
 N H D O T E A R J S D L M I S J J Q H L P R N N A
 W A N K H C B D C I Q S N J S L O G R H M U V H N
 S S B G C J S A X H U Z U B L T I K Q A D B Z L D
 K F F E E L S Z T Z A C L B N R E K E N C C U I E
 Q H M N A P T M P M F R A K S X J J U R W I R D R
 J N N E A W D E C R A M D N H Z O L R U K U G Y S
 P E U Q Y U U I R T X N A P S Y F O H L B R Y O D
 K T B M H G I R U H U M U Q A X X L N O F X Q T P
 Z R K Y H E H F D K O G S A Y R S E R S J I N T H
 O J M F P I S X F W H F P X K F K L R L I U Z U S
 U J I P N L I U I E T N A M M E M O R I A L G K A
 U I J C J X S O C C O M P U T E R L V A L W W E N

Answers can be down, backward and diagonal.

Last month's answers

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Answers next month

V N C P Y W P C K B E V H G H P N M W J M G
 W I L I L K L P D L S S A T B J K A A B P
 N M R M N E E M A H J S W C F Z A M H E C
 A T E O O L Q A I N O H S N U E N T B I
 S G K G L R S A H R E N B M O F D D N T X W
 S U A A S K F S L K O N F X M S R W B F H E
 A I Z Y B F O G A R J V I Q R N C N R F G
 U I S E R E D C U A R D H A F G E K M S K M R
 L C H I N A H T M Y B O I S I Z A F L K V
 A R H C I B Y A I T I D E X T E N R E N F E
 E X U H M C H U S B E E A T S I K Q T F T M
 E Z N T L K R A G Y O C M N I N K O T P O
 X Q F S N C F T P N A J A T N T S C L R K
 Z T R O Y T Y O Y I W A N G C Y H E C O W
 V T A U S D O V O V N J A P Y O E T N Y A
 O L P O P D Y K B O I G H R A F D L J R
 W E X R A K F B Y D Y L J N Y C O V Y D
 H H J A S P L R M F W S H T E Z D P N C S
 B G E Y Q G F K I O R D O X D Z W A F G Q Y T
 K V E C G H A R L I E T K E C I Q G T H O
 L M O K F I V F J E S A X Q R O W Z O S T
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RATE CARD

July 1989

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD
Vox Populi: To Meet A Need

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is a new monthly magazine for those who care about:

- Social justice
- the environment
- the arts
- technology and science
- labor and the economy
- politics

With a mixture of articles, interviews, columns, editorial cartoons, and reviews, HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD will examine local and national issues.

Our purpose is to give voice to ideas, attitudes, and dreams which have been hibernating during the conservative winter which has gripped us for the last twenty years. For the last decade, we've been told that people don't care anymore. HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is predicated on our faith that that is not true. Liberal, progressive, whatever, HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD is an experiment in alternative journalism. If we are right, the experiment will succeed.

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1/2 Page Vertical	3 1/2" x 9"
1/4 Page	3 1/2" x 4 1/2"
1/8 Page Vertical	1 3/4" x 2 1/4"
1/8 Page Horizontal	3 1/2" x 2 1/4"

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(Effective AUGUST, 1989)

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1/8 Page	125	115	105	100

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C-3 (Inside Back)	\$800	790	780	750
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C-4 (Outside Back)	\$1000	990	980	950
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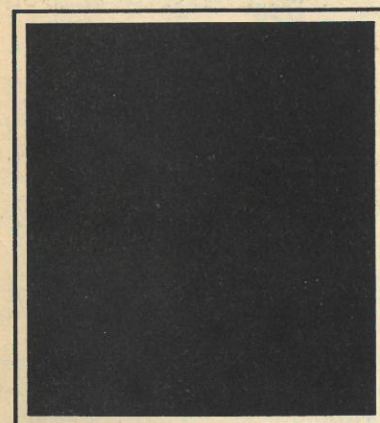
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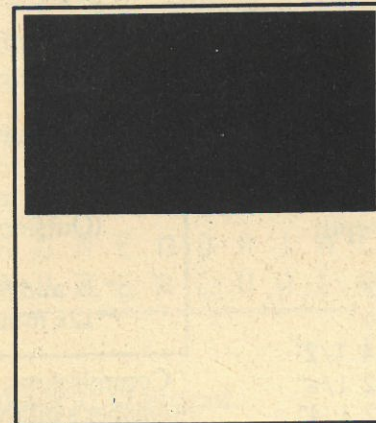
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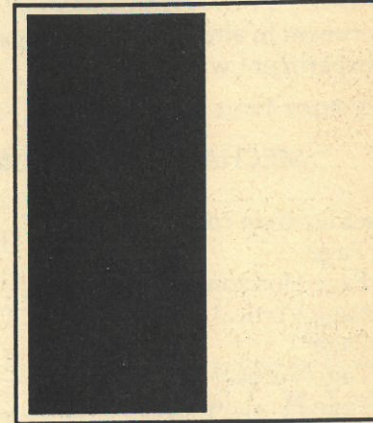
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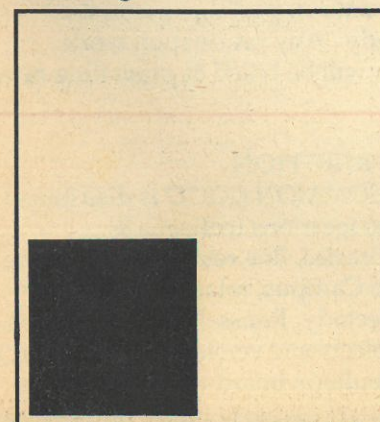
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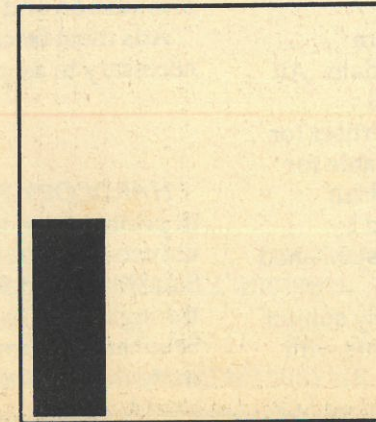
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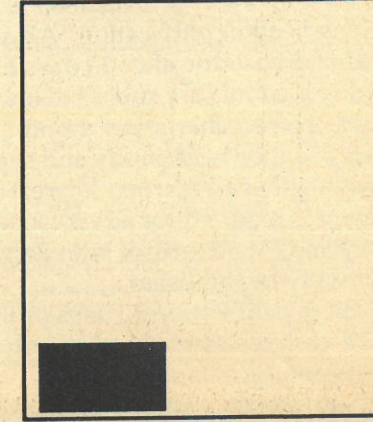
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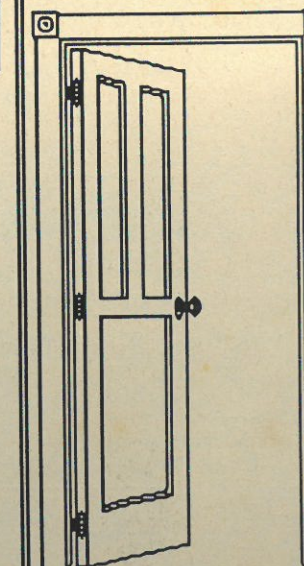
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VOX POPULI

December 1989

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For the Common Good



Who's Helping the Atomic Vets?

Vox Populi

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HARDCOPY NEWS SERVICE

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COVER: Nuclear explosion graphic by Don Rittner

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What About the Atomic Vets?

by Don Rittner

When Saratoga's John Delay was drafted into the Army in 1956, at age 19, he thought his time would be spent like most post war GI's - perform his assigned duties and go back home. What he didn't know was that he would become a human guinea pig in a series of radiation experiments conducted by the U.S. government. Many people have compared these experiments to the human atrocities of Germany and Japan during the second war.

It is estimated that at least 250,000 American soldiers were used as human guinea pigs during some 235 atomic tests conducted between 1946 and 1962 in the Marshall Islands and State of Nevada to assess, among others things, psychological reaction and how soldiers and civilians would react in case of an all out atomic war. Hundreds of unsuspecting civilians became targets of various studies including the ingestion of very toxic plutonium and other materials. In Nevada and the Marshall Islands, Soldiers were placed behind sand bags or in trenches not far from a nuclear blast, were forced to walk into ground zero, and even forced to fly their planes into atomic mushroom clouds. Additionally, some 750,000 civilians have been exposed to radionuclide fall-out.

MORE THAN 200 ATOMIC TESTS PERFORMED

The human experiments began with the largest "Operation Crossroad" at Bikini Atoll in 1946 (a proposed series of three shots: Abel, Baker and Charlie), exposing over 42,000 men to potential harmful

levels of radiation from the Bikini lagoon. The lagoon became filled with fission products from the second underwater shot "Baker."

Dr Stafford Warren, head of the radiology party found that after Abel and Baker, over 120 ships, the whole lagoon, and the island itself were contaminated to dangerous levels of radiation. He cancelled the third "Charlie" shot fearing lawsuits. More than 200 other tests would follow however under 19 different "Operations."

While soldiers were being exposed to these blasts, other short and longterm experiments were being performed closer to home. Incredible to believe, but the US Government fed plutonium, laced with traces of strontium, polonium, uranium, tritium and other radionuclides, disguised as medicine, to unknowing patients to see how the human body metabolized and excreted these compounds. Other people were subjected to high doses of radiation to find out how their immunological defense responded to cell damage. Many of these subjects were terminal patients, prisoners, alcoholics, indigent blacks, physically compromised hospital patients, and woman with "emotional problems" as well as other normal people. About 500 people ingested material. Consider the following:

- A long term study on 131 prisoners in Oregon and Washington, by the University of Cincinnati from 1953-73 focused on determining how much radiation would sterilize a male and how long that sterilization would last. All 131 patients became sterile and some had to have their testicles removed because of cancer caused by the ir-

radiation. The same University, funded by the Atomic Energy Commission, involved intense whole body radiation on 87 charity patients in a local hospital.

- A group of old people at the Laguna Honda Home in San Francisco were given strontium 90 to ingest and their excrement was monitored. It was called "treatment."

- One painter who had been fed plutonium was put on the government payroll because he was so ill he wanted to sell his home and leave the area. This upset the government doctor who wanted to continue to monitor the man's excrement.

- Another large study on humans was conducted at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1960-75 irradiating 194 persons suffering from various cancers.

- One study, uncovered as late as 1976 revealed that at the closing months of World War II, 18 men, woman and children who were thought to have a short life expectancy at the time were injected with relatively massive amounts of bomb grade plutonium (equal to one hundred to eight hundred years of occupational radiation exposure). This test was carried out under the auspices of the Manhattan Project for the development of the first atomic bomb, before the detonation of the first warhead. Three of those test subjects were still alive in 1976 when the study was uncovered. None of these subjects were told what they were given.

- "Planned experiments" in the form of radiation releases during 1944-53, could have exposed 20,000 children living downwind of the Hanford, Washington Plutonium facility to the highest doses



of radiation received by any group since the dawn of the nuclear age.

Delay, a clerk/typist for the army at Fort Dix was told to pack up and get ready to go to Enewetak Island in 1957. "I asked where it was and they said the Marshall Islands and wouldn't tell us anything about it. We filled out paper after paper for secret security clearance. When we got to the island they wouldn't tell us anything about it. The only reason we found out anything - about what was going to happen - was we asked the guys from the previous year. They said they're going to put you behind some sandbags, then explode these devices out in the lagoon and you're going to be subjected to the radiation. That's what we had to look forward to. That was the first indication of what we were doing there," he said.

Delay was exposed to three "shots" that felt "like a breeze" in a series of tests called Redwing, human experimentation #137, in what he thinks was low level ionizing radiation. What he didn't know was the island was already contaminated from previous experiments starting in 1946 to when he got there in 1957. All of the soldiers slept in tents and wore shorts and sandals because of the heat, leaving their bodies exposed for a year in Delay's case.

Furthermore, the soldiers were kept in the dark about the level of radiation they received from the detonations. "They told us just get behind these sandbags and we will tell you when it's all clear," Delay stated. "After each time, they

brought us up to the chapel area and said we didn't receive any dangerous amount of radiation," he added. "I never saw a [radiation] badge. They pointed to an officer who said he had a badge, and that we didn't receive any dangerous amount of radiation. We had helmets but no respirator or anything. The badges only measured a certain amount, not

July 7, 1945 TOP SECRET

Dear Doctor Stone:

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--Dr. Joseph G. Hamilton to
Dr. Robert S Stone

what was inhaled or digested," he added.

"The island was contaminated, there was no vegetation. The next island had some bananas, but we were told not to eat the coconuts or bananas, that [radiation] was coming from the cesium from the soil. The lagoon, is where we swam and that's where they dumped all the debris from the testing - in the lagoon - consequently there was a daily ex-

posure."

Delay suspected that he had been suffering from the effects of his stay as early as 1968. However, due to the Treason Act, no one who participated in the tests could talk publicly about it for 25 years for fear of prison. "My daughter had complete loss of her hair. I said it was the damn radiation from the island. I asked around but couldn't find anyone from the island, we had no contact with any of them. In 1983 I got my chromosomes checked and found out I had 3 times the normal chromosome damage (24% of his chromosomes are damaged)," he said.

NO COMPENSATION

What is even worse is the roadblocks that have been set up to prevent these survivors from seeking compensation for themselves and their families. In 1984, Senator John W. Warner, a republican from Virginia, attached an amendment to a bill that prevented those exposed to radiation or otherwise injured as the result of working for the nuclear weapons contractors, from suing either the contractor or the U.S. government. The Warner Amendment came at the request of the Reagan Administration and three contractors in atomic weapons tests: The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, the Sandia National Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratories, both in New Mexico. The amendment resulted in the dismissal of a number of lawsuits brought by atomic veterans and civilians employed by the nuclear contractors as well as their widows. Coupled with the Feres Doctrine, a supreme court ruling that bars veterans from seeking dam-

ages from the government while on active duty, most of the survivors claims have been refused.

Delay's experience has been costly. "You get bitter for awhile. I've spent thousands of dollars. My daughter goes to New York City, gets 500 shots in her scalp for hair loss once a month, and the cost of that, just for the inoculation, is \$100 a month, plus the cost of transportation and prescriptions. She has been under treatment for 12 years," he added. Delay is not compensated from the government in any way for the medical costs since he cannot find a doctor who will testify that his daughter's problems are a result of his radiation claim.

The National Association of Radiation Survivors (NARS), an organization formed to help atomic veterans in 1982 has tried to bring the issue to national attention. Litigation by NARS in the past has revealed that the Veterans Administration destroyed critical documents related to radiation exposure of GI's, that claims adjusters were prejudiced against radiation claims, that they opposed legislative changes in favor of atomic vets, and even violated VA regulations and federal laws. The VA admitted that it denied 99.49% of claims brought by atomic veterans and their widows.

NARS was successful in getting an Atomic Vet Compensation bill

passed by the Congress last year. Delay, who is senior vice president of the group, points out that the new law only helps about 10% of the survivors, and those who have suffered from 10 different cancers if contracted within 40 years after their exposure: Leukemia, other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia, cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or

ATOMIC TESTS OPERATIONS

Trinity: July 16, 45 through August 6, 45
Crossroads: July 1,46 -August 31-46
Sandstone: April 15,48-May 20,48
Ranger: Jan 27,51-Feb 6, 51
Greenhouse: April; 8,51-June 20, 51
Buster-Jangle: Oct 22,51 - Dec 20, 51
Tumbler-Snapper, April 1, 52 - June 20-52
Ivy, Nov 1, 52-Dec 31, 52
Upshot-Knothole, Mar 17,53 - June 20, 53
Castle, Mar 1, 54-May 31, 54
Teapot, Feb 18, 55 - June 10, 55
Wigwam, May 14, 55 - May 15, 55
Redwing, May 5, 56 - Aug 6, 56
Plumbbob, May 28, 57- Oct 22, 57
Hardtack 1, April 28, 58 - Oct 31,58
Argus, Aug 27,58 - Sept 10, 58
Hardtack II, Sept 19, 58 - Oct 31,58
Dominic I, April 25, 62 - Dec. 31, 62
Dominic II/Plowshare, July 6, 62- Aug 15, 62

hepatitis B is indicated), multiple myeloma, Lymphomas (except Hodgkins disease).

Other studies by NARS, like the Adverse Birth Outcome Study, showed five times the expected incidence of birth defects (25%)

The Marshall Islands is an archipelago in the South Pacific, 2500 miles southwest of Hawaii. It became a U.S. trust territory after WW II. The northern islands of Bikini and Enewetak (formerly Eniwetok, where 43 atomic tests were conducted from 1957-58. The island is in quarantine forever.) isolated in the vast waters of Micronesia were evacuated and used by the U.S. military for research from 1946 to 1958. On the first of March, 1954, a 17 megaton H bomb exploded on Bikini and its mushroom cloud blew unexpectedly to Rongelap 130 miles away. For seven hours, fine powdery radioactive fallout fell so heavily that unsuspecting natives thought they were seeing snow and children played in it. Two days later, 86 residents were evacuated in U.S. ships and treated for vomiting, low white blood cell counts, skin lesions, and throat problems. By 1957 the Atomic Energy Commission declared Rongelap safe, and more than 1000 people began living there sporadically. In 1982, a new report cited high radiation levels on the northern islands where residents gathered fish, turtle and fruit. This time they fled in ships provided by the environmental organization Greenpeace. At least one of the northern islands contains radiation three times higher than U.S. guidelines.



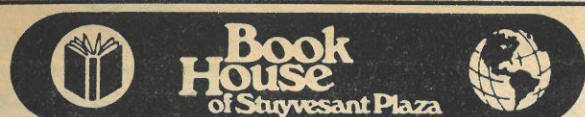
among radiation survivors as is expected in the general population (5%).

NARS is currently pressing to repeal the Warner Amendment. A bill (HR 1338) has passed the House of Representatives which would allow suits brought against the nuclear weapons contractors to go to trial.

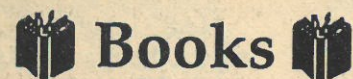
Similar legislation that would repeal the Warner Amendment (S. 2454) has been introduced in the Senate during the last five years. Delay hopes that they can expand the approved compensation bill to include the "downwinders," all of the Mormons in Utah that were down wind from the Nevada blasts, any civilians covering the border, and American Indians that mined the uranium and lived on the tailings.

Delay, like other Atomic Vets feels betrayed by the government he served. "Instead of just owning up to the problem saying yes we did it, you guys were exposed, you served in the army and we'll take care of you. They don't want to go that route."

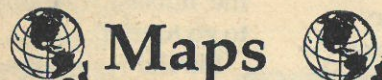
For further information:
National Association of Radiation Survivors
942 Market St., Suite 710
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-297-2001



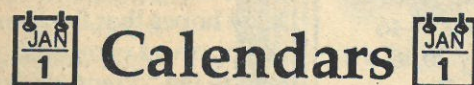
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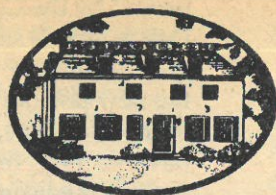


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Ending the Abortion Debate: Licensing Prospective Parents

by Randall C. Fasnacht, Sr.

One of the key underlying issues in the abortion debate, especially in *Roe v. Wade*, is the following question: How much right does the state have to interfere in procreation decisions -- can it interfere with a woman's decision not to have a baby? This question has been reinterpreted as: Can the state interfere with a woman's "right to privacy", and does such a right exist under our federal Constitution? In 1972 the Supreme Court ruled that a right to privacy in procreation decisions does exist, and the State generally cannot interfere in such decisions. It appears that our 1989 court is in the process of reversing that decision and will rule the opposite way: that no such right is specified or implied in the U.S. Constitution, and that each State must therefore make its own abortion laws within the limitations of individual state constitutions.

The focus of the abortion debate has been on the role of the fetus -- is it human, and when does it become human? (An extremely important issue, but not the focus of this article.) I would suggest that in the coming decades an equally important issue will emerge: Does the State have a right to prevent a person or couple from having children, even if they wish to have children? Is having children a right protected by our Constitution (an unwritten "right to privacy"), or, like driving a car, is it a privilege which can be regulated and even prevented by the state?

As a social worker with over 20 years experience in human services, I'm continually amazed by the inability of our citizens and political leaders to see what seems to me so obvious: Once a child is born into a chaotic family environment -- where there are drugs or alcohol abuse, child

abuse, low regard for education, unemployment, emotional abuse and generalized "poor parenting", there is very little our society can do to ensure that the child will function anywhere near his or her true potential. It is not the fault of our social service organizations, our school systems, our criminal justice or child welfare services (although they could all do better); rather, in all honesty we must admit that we just don't know how to rehabilitate these chaotic families. The professions of psychology, psychiatry and social work are still quite young, and it is a very rare occasion when a severely dysfunctional family can be rehabilitated. Once a chaotic family is created, we just don't know how to fix the broken children produced by that family. Often our only choice is to "put them away" in foster care, juvenile homes, prisons or psychiatric hospitals. These children often become lifelong burdens on society.

I would estimate that approximately 20% of our children come from such severely dysfunctional families, and these children and their families use up 80% of our social service resources.

In a society which honors fairness above all else, it is ironic that the single most unfair event in many people's lives will occur on the day of their birth (or, more correctly, on the day of their conception): To whom were you born? If your parents are moderately intelligent, emotionally stable with a good set of functionally successful values, and if they have good parenting skills, your life will generally follow one pathway. And if your parents are uneducated, poorly socialized, chaotic and emotionally unstable, it is highly likely that your life will follow an entirely different

course. (There are always exceptions, of course, but these general patterns will prevail.)

When I was an adoption caseworker I was always struck by the fact that couples who wanted to adopt were often given rigorous tests and evaluations before the State felt comfortable placing a child in their home, yet the rest of society's children had absolutely no such protection. What is the underlying philosophy here? Don't all of our children deserve at least minimal protection by the state? Shouldn't our basic approach to protecting children rest on a guarantee that some effort has been made to ensure at least minimal parenting skills and minimal emotional health on the part of the parents?

What protections do we currently offer our child victims? What chance do we give a child born to a 14 year old drug addicted prostitute; or the child of an emotionally disturbed high school dropout who was severely abused as a child and who continues to abuse his own children; or the fifth child of an unwed mother who is already stretched far beyond her limitations taking care of her other four children? Our child protective systems are all reactive -- massive harm must first be done to the child to "prove" the parent is incompetent, and the incriminating damage often leaves a permanently broken child.

Such children rarely have the slightest chance of growing into emotionally healthy, productive citizens of our society. Such children will more often than not

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consume enormous social service resources without any clear benefit, and such children will more often than not repeat these same destructive patterns with their own children. And you can increase fivefold the funding of our social service and educational programs (as we have since 1960) and still not see one iota of improvement in social problems.

The rights of parents and the rights of their children have been on a collision course for a number of years. Someday our child abuse system will expand the definition of child abuse to include the requirement for minimal skills before conception takes place. Once we decide that having children is a right to be earned rather than a privilege, then we will finally address the needs of the 20% of our children who do not have the slightest chance of participating in the many opportunities this country has to offer.

A decision to limit parenting is not made easily — certainly if a vote were held today such a proposition would fail by a large margin. But someday, perhaps hundreds of years from now, our society will have to limit births. (Perhaps because of future population explosions, such as in China or India, or perhaps because our medical sciences will soon be able to extend life expectancy indefinitely, and our population size will soon be out of control as more and more children continue to be born while few people die.) In anticipation of these developments, and on behalf of the unborn child who is about to embark on the most important lottery of his or her life, we must ensure that at least minimal skills and capabilities are present before a child can be brought into our society.

Who will set these standards, and how can we prevent the standards from becoming discriminatory? Just

as we have managed to develop some clear and simple standards for driving a car, so can we establish some simple, objective, easily-implemented and easily-evaluated guidelines to protect unborn children.

Some suggested standards:

- 1) Parents must be over age 21;
- 2) Parents must be married three years before a pregnancy begins;
- 3) Parents must be self-supporting; if they can't find a job in the private sector the government should be the employer of last resort (Suggested salary: \$20,000 per year in today's dollars);
- 4) Parents cannot have more than two children (unless they have met a full range of increasingly stringent standards);
- 5) Parents must be able to pass a minimally difficult written test of basic parenting skills and knowledge.

And how will these standards be enforced? Initially we must define unlicensed parenting as child abuse, and if a family gets pregnant without being licensed, we should swamp the family with a wide range of support services and programs to help the parents meet minimal standards. But if the family is still unable to get its act together quickly, then the child would be removed at birth and placed for adoption.

In the future one could foresee the development of pregnancy-suppressing substances which could be added to the food supply and water supply, essentially rendering everyone infertile, a condition which would only be reversed with an antidote upon completion of the licensing procedure. This would also eliminate much of the controversy over abortion, since there would rarely be unplanned pregnancies.)

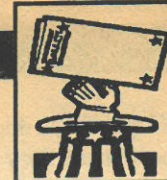
Massive educational and support services could be mounted to help couples meet these standards, but essentially our child welfare philosophy would be turned on its

head — parents would have to show minimal capabilities before a child was born, rather than the state having to prove abuse or neglect and trying to "rehabilitate" a family or remove a child from the home after the lifelong damage is already done. The result would be astounding. 80% of our social problems would be reduced or eliminated within a decade or two — certainly a long time to wait for improvement, but nowhere nearly as long a wait as we can expect from the current "rehabilitative" social service system.

The licensed parenting/guaranteed employment tradeoff would represent a monumental political compromise which would satisfy two major demands lying at the core of the liberal and conservative wings of our political parties: The liberals would get universal guaranteed employment as a core ingredient of a newly-structured social welfare philosophy, and this would be exchanged for a significant increase in family stability and the elimination of illegitimacy and other family chaos which the conservatives have railed against for so many decades.

And at the core: The Supreme Court in its continuing review of *Roe v. Wade* must vote against a constitutional right to privacy on childbirth decisions — such a right is not enunciated in our Constitution, and to rule otherwise will mean we will never be able to put the needs of unborn children ahead of the needs of well-meaning but incompetent parents.

Randall Fasnacht is an analyst in the New York State Office of Mental Health and has spent many years working with the poor.



Referendums: Will Voters Have A Say?

by Richard Crist

Through the powers of initiative and referendum, state voters, like voters across the nation, could receive a greater say on the issues that affect their daily lives: capital punishment, the drinking age, and seat belt laws, among others. State lawmakers first must be convinced that voters deserve that right.

For much of the decade, the Senate and Assembly Judiciary Committees have been successful in stalling legislation for initiative and referendum, which would allow registered voters the right to enact or repeal legislation on the state level through amendments to the state constitution. A grassroots effort, led by the Capital District group "We, The People," is seeking to change that inaction with a massive petition drive that aims at collecting 1.5 million signatures.

"We, the People" president Frank Quill, said that the petition drive, run

by volunteers, has mostly been concentrated in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Columbia Counties. That effort will soon branch out across the state, Quill said, and will include New York City and Long Island.

Quill agrees that collecting 1.5 million signatures is an ambitious undertaking, but says that a clear signal needs to be sent to lawmakers, who he says are reluctant to relinquish any of their power.

The 1,700 member, all volunteer group has collected 75,000 signatures so far, well below the desired amount organizers believe will force a vote on the issue in both houses.

The bill that would introduce initiative and referendum, introduced in the Senate by Senator Frank Padavan and Serphin Maltese, and in the Assembly by Assemblyman Douglas Prescott and a number of co-

sponsors was renewed in March during the last session and will be active until February 1990. The bill was instantly referred to the Judiciary Committee before a vote could be taken.

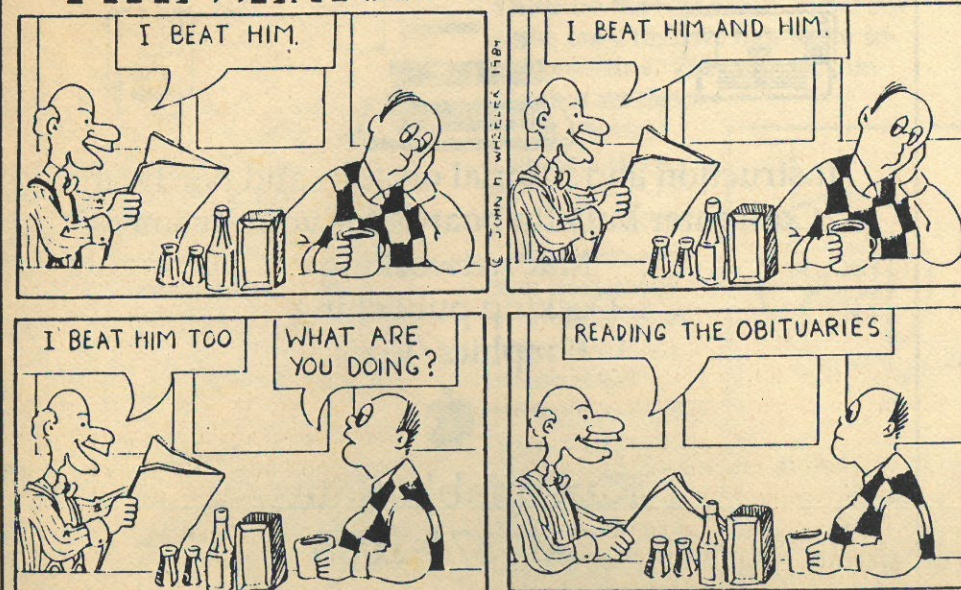
G. Oliver Koppell, chairman of the Assembly's Judiciary Committee, has called such a measure "too simplistic." A spokesman for Senator John Dunne of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said that "the bill is something that comes around every year," but lacks legal merit.

An opinion by the State Attorney General's office on the measure after it was referred to their office by the Judiciary Committee's of both houses, found that initiative and referendum would restrict the power of legislators to approve or reject statutes.

Also, the opinion signed by Attorney General Robert Abrams, said that legislative consideration of a proposed amendment would be shortened. As Abrams noted in his statement, legislative consideration can last between nine months and 30 months. Also, Abrams stated, amendments would not have to be submitted to his office for review.

Quill is convinced that despite Abrams' assertions, state voters are able to fairly decide on legislation and need a greater say. Quill points to actions taken by voters in other states, empowered with initiative and referendum, including California and Massachusetts. "They're doing it in 23 other states," Quill said. "I think voters have made responsible de-

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cisions. They've made good decisions. Look what they did with insurance companies in California," he said, referring to the insurance premium reform enacted by voters last year. After it was found that drivers in some areas of the state paid significantly higher premiums than drivers in other areas, voters introduced a reform measure on the ballot. "No Fault insurance in this state is a joke," Quill said.

Quill also noted that Massachusetts voters were able to repeal a mandatory seat belt law in 1986. Quill wants issues like the seat belt law, capital punishment, the drinking age and no smoking regulations be put before voters. Voters might also have a chance to decide lawmakers salaries, something that worries legislators in Albany.

Quill said he is "not naive" about state politics and how our government is run. That's exactly why, he says, voters need a greater say. "It comes down to the governor and the two majority leaders making the decision," he said. "That's not good representation."

A spokesman for Governor Mario Cuomo disagreed with Quill's assertions about representation. "People are adequately represented by their legislators," Terry Lynan, a spokesperson for Cuomo said. "If people conclude that legislators are not effectively representing them then the responsibility is left to the people not to vote them back into office."

That is easier said than done, Quill noted, as lawmakers are usually easily re-elected.

Lynan said that Cuomo was interested in one modified version of the bill. "Legislative leaders can effectively prevent," Lynan said "a

bill coming to vote." The Governor, he said, has shown an interest in a bill that would allow registered voters to introduce legislation for a vote in the Assembly or Senate. Legislators would still ultimately have the final say on the measure. This, Quill said, would leave voters with still little say in their government.

Assemblyman Neil Kelleher, of Troy, a multisponsor of the bill in the Assembly, believes that voters need more say.

"The thrust of this," he said, "is to give people decision on matters that government has, or should be, dealing with."

Kelleher said that he supported the initiative and referendum throughout its many introductions in the decade, noted that his colleagues in Albany, "would be reluctant to surrender any of their power."

"This weakens government,"

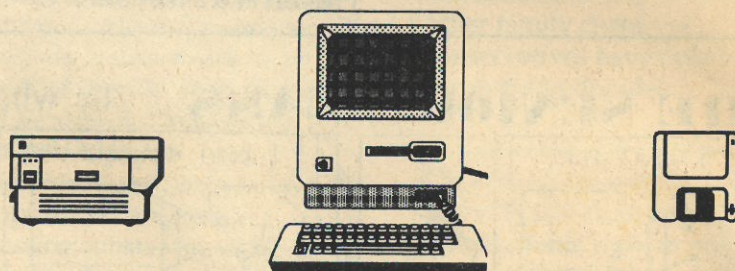
Kelleher said, "and strengthens the people. This would give the average citizen the opportunity to have a voice in government. Once the average citizen is given that power, government improves."

Even with lofty plaudits from lawmakers like Kelleher, "We, the People" has met with opposition at nearly every turn. Press has been apathetic, with the exception of a New York Times article on the group's petition drive at the Columbia County Fair in 1987. At this year's fair in Columbia County, "We, the People" petitioners were asked to set up their table outside the fairground gates.

Petitions alone, Quill acknowledges, won't be enough to enact initiative and referendum, but could force a vote on the issue.

It will show legislators that it could be costly to vote against the measure.

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Nicaragua: Social Problems and Community Solutions

by Agnes Zellin & Paul Tick

This past May, three Capital District Social Workers and an educator from New York city visited Nicaragua to assess the social service needs of the country. We were invited by the Director of the Nicaragua Institute for Social Welfare and Social Security (INSSBI). Director Marcia Ramirez hoped that by developing relations between human service workers in the United States and Nicaragua, some Nicaraguan workers could come to the United States and receive desperately needed training.

During our two-week trip we visited schools, hospitals, day care centers, community service organizations and rehabilitation centers. We visited the capital city, surrounding cities, country towns and the Atlantic Coast where the most devastating effects of last October's hurricane are still part of everyday life.

Everywhere we travelled we witnessed the herculean efforts of the country's few trained social workers (60 in all) to overcome enormous problems. With so few trained workers and scarce resources, the slogan and practice "social problems -- community solutions" developed. That is, the most significant problems are social and it takes the efforts of everyone together; professional, working people, parents and children, to solve the nation's physical, emotional and economic problems. Wherever we went, everyone was involved.

Before 1979, there were virtually no social services available to the people of Nicaragua. In 1979, after the triumph of the revolution, the

Ministry of Social Welfare was born and in 1982 it emerged with the Institute of Social Security. The present organization seeks to ensure that the population is socially secure and stable. However, the goal is distant. Ten years of the U.S. backed contra war left 26,000 persons killed, 50,000 displaced, 6000 young people disabled and 15,000 orphaned. To add to this, last October's hurricane ripped through 80% of Nicaragua, completely destroying the homes and crops of hundred of thousands of people and killing 170 and an economic collapse has reached crisis proportions.

The reality of repairing Nicaraguan lives is delicately and tenuously balanced between hope and despair. The Vice Minister of INSSBI, Dr. Ricardo Chavarria explained, "Our people have been castigated over and over and this makes it very difficult to continue. Since the revolution, we have emerged as a people of great solidarity, friendship and patriotism. These are the best values in life but at the same time we face major social problems. They are not complex but are deeply felt - hunger, isolation, poverty."

However, a vision from social services workers prevails -- it is a vision of the strength and intelligence of the Nicaraguan people. One worker explained, "the social worker is a worker of the people."

We do not resolve the problems for a community. We work with the community and they decide how it will solve their own problems. We don't want our experienced workers to stay inside our institutions. We must work with the people as communist workers." INSSBI workers provide training to community volunteers, but the community, as a whole, chooses which problems need to be tackled. "People are the magic key to solving social problems. Everyone is involved - students, peasants, teachers, even the children. And we don't just focus on social problems. We also see the importance of preserving community recreation, celebration, well-being. Everyone takes ownership of a project."

The Nicaraguans are committed to popular participation in social services. They become educated and empowered as they solve their community problems. However, they are technically inexperienced, and acutely aware of their lack of educational materials, and financial resources. They carry on but also seek outside help. This is



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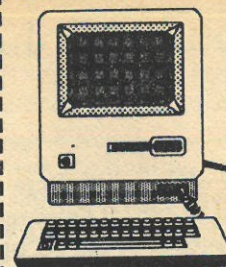
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The next stage of our project is to host three Nicaraguan social workers coming to the Capital District and New York City this October. They will observe a variety of social work settings - centers for the disabled veterans, domestic violence shelters, foster care agencies, hospitals, alcohol rehab centers, special education programs, etc. They will learn about the strengths and weaknesses of our social service system. We plan to provide them with useful practical information and training workshops. Perhaps though, the most valuable aspects of the project will be the stretching of our commitment to work together and to learn together, and to bring more understanding between our countries, for the social well-being of us all.

For more information, contact Agnes Zellin in Albany at 463-2348 (day), or 489-2893 (night).

Agnes Zellin is a child welfare advocate and member of Capital District Woman's Political Caucus. Paul Tick is Director of a residential treatment program for abused children and former co-chair of New Jewish Agenda's National Central American Task Force. The exchange program is a project of the Northeast Division of the National Association of Social Workers, the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society, and the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Nova Scotia.



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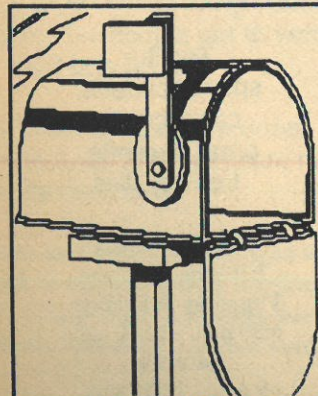
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Still Missing

by Dave Millard

The six o'clock news tells of a story and shows the emotional images of a mother and father desperately begging for information on the whereabouts of a child that has become missing. I believe that every one of us who witnesses these trials of human tragedy are moved by poignancy and self projection of our own lives into a situation of like hopelessness. Too often, these impasses are broken by the further tragedy of someone discovering the missing child in a cold, lonely forgotten niche with the breath of life gone from his or her body.

The questions remain and the sadness always continues, but some comfort can be recognized in the end knowledge provided by the wake and final burial. The mourners lives are "unfrozen" and they can go on about the business of gathering the broken pieces of their lives and moving on.

During the 14 years of involvement by the United States in Southeast Asia during the later 60's and early

70s over 3,000 American sons and daughters were listed as missing or prisoners of war in the Viet-nam-Cambodia-Laos theater of actions. In excess of 2500 still remain unaccounted for today. The tragedy visited upon these servicemen is a matter of highest concern to all of us as Americans. The risk they took was great and understood as a part of their service to their nation, but I'm sure none

their daily lives with painful uncertainty, want to let hope go but are not allowed to do so by the inherent strength of human love.

I am honored to personally know a beautiful lady in the Capital District whose life was changed forever when her first husband became MIA in Vietnam. Although she eventually remarried and is doing her best to live her life to its fullest, it is very easy for me to see the pain and hurt borne deep in her heart and soul... the same pain you see on the six o'clock news, only tempered by years of tears and fighting the searing hurt of dreaded uncertainty.

Take the time this month to remember those Americans who are still listed as POW-MIA.

Let's recommit ourselves to resolve the issues, not only for those servicemen involved, but for those who love them and bear the brunt of this national tragedy so stoically and faithfully.



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of them even fathomed the pain and anguish visited upon their loved ones from just "not knowing."

This is the real sadness of the lingering of the POW-MIA issue. Those parents, wives, children who live

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At the Movies...

by Matt Hough

ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS

By Matt Hough

"Parenthood" takes a four child family, each a parent himself and proceeds to show us their lives, both their triumphs and their tribulations. It's a mostly merry show with enough honesty in the cheers and tears formula to make it very worthwhile. Unfortunately, it could have been even more effective with fewer adults having to be given their equal share of time. In this particular case, less definitely would have been more.

In the main, the screenplay by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel (responsible for, among other films, "Splash") is a wise and witty blend of comedy and drama with Steve Martin garnering the greatest percentage of screen time as a conscientious and troubled husband and father and also a frustrated son to his father Jason Robards (The script does many variations on the child-parent-grandparent triangle, most of them well integrated).

The other adult kids in the family are divorcee Dianne Wiest, painfully trying to bring up two children whose father abandoned them for another woman; Harley Kozak married to Rick Moranis who's deftly attempting to have his daughter finish her Ph.D. dissertation before she enters kindergarten; and Tom Hulce, the baby of the family who has one thing he's ever started either personally or professionally.

The mix is irresistible if a trifle lumpy, and the elimination of at least one set of siblings (perhaps the Moranis/Kozak plot line) would have benefited the pacing of the show. As it now stands, the film tends to race along only to splutter sometimes in its slightly in overlong 124 minutes.

Contained in the two plus hours, though, are some memorable sequences. All of Martin's scenes with his insecure son (played quite believably by Jason Fisher) are triumphs of acting and reacting. Particularly captivating are the scenes involving Fisher's ninth birthday party. Invited celebrity Cowboy Bob doesn't make it, so Martin pinch hits with comic routines that are both hilarious and wonderfully tender. As with his choice performances in "All of Me" and "Roxanne," he has deftly mastered the tenuous balancing act between humor and pathos.

Dianne Wiest's problems with her teenaged daughter Martha Plimpton and her entanglement with grease monkey Keanu Reeves show Wiest in top form, but the young

people's story is a bit predictable. Better are her attempts to reach her younger child Gerry (Leaf Phoenix) who has his own torments to grapple with.

Moranis' driven desire to fully educate his daughter as early as possible begins cutely but soon becomes trite. Overexposed already this summer with "Ghostbusters II" and "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids," Moranis' playing here is too precious and not particularly credible. The conflict with his wife over their child's rearing seems much ado about nothing as a little compromise on both their parts eases all of the strain there.

Hulce's character likewise wear thin early with his irritatingly excused irresponsibility. The situation is realistic enough, and there's no criticizing Hulce's acting. But clearly more should have been with the character who is greatly glossed over in the film. The possibility for confrontation with his other siblings who deeply resent the privileged treatment he gets from dad Robards is achingly felt, but the clash never comes, and it's one scene that needs to be here.

Director Ron Howard has done a magnificent job in handling the numerous child actors who have very important parts to play with the seasoned veterans of the cast. It cannot have been easy to coax these sterling performances from the tots, by they are priceless.

"Parenthood captures the occasional triumphs and continual challenges of parenting quite well. It's another finely tuned slice of life that's both enjoyable and affecting for the filmgoer wanting more than a mindless entertainment.

[On a four star scale, this film would rate three stars.]



Also Playing

"When Harry Met Sally" (3 1/2 stars): A delightful romantic comedy in which Billy Crystal takes ten years to find out he loves Meg Ryan, something we in the audience know all along. Smoothly directed by Rob Reiner.

"The Abyss" (2 1/2 stars): Some watery nonsense in which deep sea divers have a close encounter with both psychotic humans and angelic aliens. Interesting in spots but not as involving as the onslaughts director James Cameron has subjected us to before.



In Your Own Words: Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

The Vietnam War may be over as far as a national military action is concerned, but it is very much alive in the hearts and minds of thousands of men who have been unable to escape the horrors of their experience.

The MIA/POW issue is a worthy and just one, but I am writing out of concern for the veterans who are missing and in prison right here in our own country. "The Wall" is a remembrance and tribute for the 58,473 who lost their lives in combat fighting on foreign soil, but I have not seen a memorial for the 98,500 who are missing from suicide and/or accident on their own soil. There is no memorial for those who are daily struggling through the abuse of alcohol and drugs as a means of staying alive, of coping with the horrors yet so vivid in their minds. And who remembers, or cares, about the "forgotten warrior" whose inability to deal with his experience has been sent home to prison. Of the 3.5 million who were ordered to South-East Asia, approximately 500,000 have been in trouble with the law, in prison, or on parole. THINK OF THAT!! Nearly 1/7 of these young men were so effected, so marred, so troubled, that it contributed to their incarceration all across this country. Some have been in prison as long as 20 years, since shortly after their return from Vietnam. Not only has it been a devastating waste to them as individuals and their families, but to the nation as well. Instead of these men helping to build the national economy by productive service, they are a drain on the taxpayers of each state. Yet, this class of prisoner has above average skills. Many have learned skills or earned their college degrees while in prison.

As a nation, we sent these young men, of approximately 19 years of age, into the very "Pit of hell" to experience horrors that even Hollywood wouldn't film. They were trained to kill, and kill they did. And when they couldn't cope with the killing, they turned to alcohol and drugs to numb themselves so they could keep on killing...and hopefully survive long enough to get home. For many of them, they were sent home. In less than 36 hours, went from the jungle warfare of Vietnam to the jungle of protesting America. Can you imagine the shock, the hurt, anger, rage, and frustration these men must have felt? They fought in a foreign land that didn't want them, only to return to their own "homeland" that didn't want them either. In most cases, the government offered no "debriefing" no opportunity for gradual readmis-

sion into society, and it has offered little understanding, or benefit since. They have felt strongly rejected and demoralized by the very country they fought for, took pride in, sacrificed their very lives for, and loved.

Yes, thankfully, many have coped, survived, and gone on to live balanced, healthy and productive lives, but what about the thousands who have not? What about those who couldn't find jobs, and are now homeless living on the streets, "? What about those who couldn't cope without alcohol and drugs, and are still using it to survive? What about the ones who couldn't readjust, couldn't get the help they needed and requested, and are in our prisons?

The justice system has been everything but just and merciful when it has come to sentencing veterans who have committed crimes. There is reason to believe that many have received harsher sentencing than their nonveteran counterparts.

There appears to be a special need among these Vietnam veterans, and that is for "comradeship." They know they need help, but their pain is such that they will only respond to those of "like kind", other veterans who have been there, who have experienced the same horrors that they experienced.

Maybe that is why the V.A. Hospitals have been so ineffective, while the Vet centers have been more effective. The same is true for the "incarcerated veteran," but many are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to establish veteran organizations behind the walls of prison. The prison administrations are fearful their motive are to stage "gangs," but they are ill-informed! Vietnam Veterans of America (V.V.A) has incarcerated chapters all over the country and approximately 120 incarcerated veterans organizations make up the National Incarceration Veterans Network. Incarcerated chapters of other veterans organizations are also found in many prisons. For the most part, these organizations are led by highly intelligent men, who understand the effects of P.T.S.D., Agent Orange, Flashbacks, nightmares, etc. They are trying to get treatment for all incarcerated veterans who need it, so they will be well-adjusted when the reenter society. These veterans groups are "self-help," but they need a helping hand.

Initially, I would like to see veterans groups allowed in all prisons across the country. There are successful veterans groups in some prisons, many which are operating with very little funding or outside

help. Those of you who belong to veterans organizations, why not help your incarcerated brothers by cosponsoring an "in prison" chapter or helping them begin their own. They need your assistance and expertise. They need your friendship and involvement. These groups provide self-help treatment and they are rehabilitative.

Ideally, I would like to see our judicial system, our federal government, and our American citizens take some ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY for these incarcerated veterans. While they are responsible for their own actions, I strongly believe than many were effected by their experience. It is "criminal" of us as a nation, to not come to their aid in their time of need. These men and women need to be IDENTIFIED, EVALUATED, TREATED, AND GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RELEASE!! They were there when America called, and they would be there again!! They fought, and bled, and some died. Can we ignore the cries of those who survived Vietnam, but have not survived their experiences, those living behind "THE WALL of incarceration."

Dottie L. Cruz, San Antonio, Tx

TO THE EDITOR:

Generally I don't write letters - actually this is the first letter I've written to an editor.

As a 20 year old college student I find I have plenty of other things that I should be doing, but after reading 3 issues of HARDCOPY, I really like your articles. It's honest gutsy news that I like and will take the time to read. I'd like to commend you on your issues and I will be a consistent reader.

The latest issue, Aug, 1989, with the article on Kathie Erickson, really inspired me to write this letter. I would have done the same thing, and probably would have been crushed by all the bureaucracy.

I'm glad that there are people out there who still believe in trying to set things right. At times I lose confidence in the world.

Thanks for being "For the Common Good."

Keep it up.

Jeannine Robson, Albany